

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1269
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.12.2025

Review of Penalty Imposed for Use of Government Land

1269. SHRI KUNDURU RAGHUVeer:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that 330.1826 hectares of land used by Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) for the RG Coal Mine was originally declared as Government land in 1978 but was subsequently identified as forest land in 2013;
- (b) whether the Government of Telangana, vide letter dated 27.05.2024, recommended waiver of the penalty imposed in Stage-I Forest Clearance and SCCL has also requested Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) on 30.11.2024 for reduction of the penalty;
- (c) whether SCCL has already deposited 34.31 crore as Net Present Value (NPV) on 16.04.2025 and complied with other conditions; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to review or waive the five times penal NPV imposed as part of Stage-I conditions, in view of the land's prior classification as Government land?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH)

(a) to (d) The 'Land' is a subject matter of the State Government. The forest areas and the legal boundaries thereof are determined and maintained by the concerned State Government. That, being the repository of the land records, State Government has the primary responsibility to determine status of any parcel of land, giving due regards to gazette notifications, provisions under State and Central Acts and concerned judgements and directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

As per information received from Telangana Forest Department, the land measuring 330.33 ha (330.1826 ha) was handed over by the Revenue Department as Government land along with total land of 448.90 Ha, in Upparlakesaram and other villages for various mining activities to the M/s SCCL since 1973.

The Ministry vide letter No.8-16/2021-FC dated 21.11.2023 has accorded *Stage-I / In-principle* approval for regularization of 330.33 ha (330.1826 Ha as per DGPS survey) of forest land in Upparlakesaram Forest Block in Manthani Range of Peddapalli Division for Mining

Operations and Other Activities of SCCL in Peddapalli District subject to certain conditions including the payment of penal NPV for violation.

The Government of Telangana requested for waiver of the penalty imposed in ***Stage-I / In-principle*** approval. The request for waiver was examined by the Advisory Committee in its meeting dated 27.08.2024. Based upon the recommendation of the Advisory Committee, the Ministry decided to reject the request of the State Government and the State was accordingly informed vide letter dated 30.09.2024.

The State Forest Department has informed that the SCCL has generated a Challan in the Ministry's portal on 16.04.2025, for payment of an amount of Rs.34,31,29,794/- into the CAMPA account towards compensatory levies and paid on 07.05.2025. Out of the total amount, the amount of Rs.31,63,83,467/- is towards NPV and remaining is towards Safety Zone management. However, the complete compliance of the conditions of Stage-1 approval, including the payment of compensatory and penal levies has not been submitted by the State Government.
