

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2872

ANSWERED ON 17.12.2025

IDLE MINES IN THE COUNTRY

2872. SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the total number of mines in the country that are currently idle, State and Union Territory-wise;
- (b) the details of the primary reasons for these mines being idle including factors such as regulatory delays, environment/forest clearances, leaseholder inaction, legal disputes or any other administrative or technical reasons;
- (c) whether the Government has a plan to revive these idle mines and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether there is any mechanism for reclaiming or reassigning the leases of long-idle mines to more capable operators or for alternative utilisation, such as conversion into solar parks or other public-benefit purposes and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the estimated economic losses to the exchequer in terms of foregone revenues and increased import dependence arising from the continued non-utilisation of such idle mines?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b) There are 1400 non-working major mineral mines in the country. The State/ UT-wise details are provided in Annexure-I. The mines are currently non-working mainly due to mine under process of surrender, pending lapse order by the State Government, lack of availability of suitable grade mineral, uneconomic operations, non-compliance with statutory requirements, legal issues, and challenges linked to land acquisition and local issues.

(c) & (d) The Ministry of Mines has introduced several reforms under the MMDR Act, 1957 to revive non-working mines. Section 4A(4) provides that leases with no production and dispatch for two consecutive years are liable to lapse. The States are required to review and promptly re-auction the feasible blocks. Under Section 8B, all valid rights and clearances transfer automatically to the new lessee. For mines that cannot be revived, there is a provision for effective mine closure by the lessee through

approved closure plans that ensure proper restoration of the area which can be used for alternative public-purposes.

(e) Feasible non-working mines are auctioned, whereby States receive auction premium in addition to royalty.

Annexure: I

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Non-working Mines*
1	Tamil Nadu	347
2	Andhra Pradesh	282
3	Gujarat	172
4	Madhya Pradesh	143
5	Karnataka	110
6	Odisha	81
7	Jharkhand	67
8	Telangana	40
9	Maharashtra	36
10	Rajasthan	25
11	Chhattisgarh	24
12	Jammu & Kashmir	24
13	Meghalaya	11
14	Himachal Pradesh	9
15	Goa	8
16	Bihar	6
17	Haryana	4
18	Kerala	4
19	Uttarakhand	4
20	Assam	1
21	Ladakh	1
22	West Bengal	1
Grand Total		1400

* List excludes non-working mines of the newly classified major minerals (Quartz, Feldspar, Mica, and Barytes).