

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF MINES
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 759
ANSWERED ON 04.02.2026

SUSTAINABLE MINING

759. SMT. MALVIKA DEVI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Member of Parliament or any other public representative is a part of the process during the Gram Sabha being held before the permission of mining, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of the steps taken by the Government to monitor that the miners are also promoting forestation and working for the development of the Mining area and the forests also including the serious punishments or penalties imposed on the mine owners who violates and does not follow the rules for protection of mines and forests; and
- (c) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to ensure safe mining and reduce pollution caused by mining?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): Wherever forest land is involved, or acquisition of land is required for mining purposes, public hearing as required under relevant laws takes place. As per existing law, before execution of the mining lease, it is mandatory to obtain the requisite statutory clearances from various departments of the Central Government and respective State Governments, including Forest Clearance. As part of the Forest Clearance, the prospective lessee has to undertake compensatory afforestation in lieu of the diversion of forest land for mining. The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) and the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and Rules framed thereunder stipulate the penal provisions for violation of the rules for protection of mines and forests.

(c): The Central Government has enacted the Mines Act, 1952 to ensure occupational safety & health of mine workers. Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), Ministry of Labour and Employment has been entrusted the task of inspection of mines to ensure the compliance of the provisions of Mines Act, 1952 and rules and regulations framed thereunder for enhancing the safety of mine workers.

Ministry of Mines has implemented Sustainable Mining Practices by making provisions under Chapter-V of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), 2017. Provisions have been incorporated in the rules for precaution against air pollution, prevention of discharge of toxic liquid, precaution against noise, control of surface subsidence, etc.

Rule 35 of MCDR, 2017 provides for star rating of the mining leases based on the sustainable mining practices adopted by the miners. The star rating scheme is designed to have an inbuilt compliance mechanism for environment and forest safeguards and has been helpful in recognizing good performers in the sector while encouraging all mining lease holders to strive for excellence.

Further, as per Rule 35 (4) of MCDR, 2017, every holder of a mining lease is mandated to achieve at least three-star rating within a period of four years from the date of commencement of mining operations and thereafter maintain the same on year-on-year basis.
