

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:306

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2011

RESTORATION OF MINED OUT AREAS

Biswal Shri Hemanand ;Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the policy for filling/reclamation of mined out areas in the country;
- (b) Whether the policy is being followed properly;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the Government monitors the restoration work;
- (d) whether the Government has received complaints about non-implementation of the said policy in some of the areas of the country; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the restoration in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a) to (c) : Mine Closure Plan is mandatory as per the provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 [MMDR] and for obtaining approval for Environment Management Plans under the Environmental Impact Assessment Notification (EIA) of September 2006 of Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF). Mine Closure Plan (MCP) is an integral part of a coal mining project and to be implemented progressively as well as at the closure of a mine or exhaustion of its reserves. As per the guidelines of Ministry of Coal all coal mine owners have to deposit specified amount depending on the mining lease area in an Escrow Account with Coal Controller Organisation and the amount will be released in parts five years before the final closure of the mine and depending on the satisfactory progress of the reclamation of mined out areas.

The coal companies are required to submit compliance report every six monthly to MoEF and State Pollution Control Board (SPCB) of respective states regarding the conditions laid in the Environmental Clearance (EC) and thus these authorities regularly monitor the compliances including reclamation. Further Coal India Limited (CIL) monitors the land reclamation work through state of the art satellite surveillance program through CMPDIL.

(d) & (e) No formal complaints have been received in regard to non-implementation of Mine Closure Plan.