

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4496  
ANSWERED ON:21.12.2011  
ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE  
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**Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries are operating several coal mines without environmental clearances as pointed out by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in their report;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, company-wise and the reasons for not obtaining environmental clearance;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to seek fresh clearances for mining of coal in these mines; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken/being taken in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): It was observed by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in their report of performance audit on activities of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), undertaken by CIL during the period from April 2004 to March 2010, that 239 mines in CIL, which existed prior to 1994, were found to be working without Environmental Clearance.

As on 30.11.2011, there exist about 218 mines in CIL (ECL-91, BCCL-103, CCL-20, and MCL-4) without environmental clearance. These mines are all pre 1994/legacy mines, which did not require any environmental clearance and were being operated on renewal of lease basis. These running mines, consequent to Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) 2006 notification, have come under the category of violation. CIL has immediately initiated action to obtain the required Environmental Clearances (EC) for all 218 mines and the clearance are under different stages of approval.

After promulgation of EIA Notifications 2006, with affirmative nod from the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) majority of these pre 1994 / legacy mines are now clubbed into clusters for obtaining fresh ECs. Some mines have approached individually to MoEF for fresh EC. After prolonged deliberations, MoEF has principally agreed to the cluster concept of old legacy mines and all are being processed accordingly for obtaining ECs.

In ECL, all 91 such mines are clubbed into 13 clusters for obtaining EC. The proposals for 11 clusters have been submitted to MoEF. TORs (Terms of Reference) have been received for 10 clusters and EIA/ Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for these are under preparation. All 103 old and legacy mines of BCCL grouped into 17 clusters and TORs have been received for 16 of them. In CCL for all 20 old operating mines, actions have already been initiated for getting ECs. Some of them are in the final stages of getting EC approval from MoEF. In MCL, there are only 4 such mines and actions have been already initiated for getting ECs.