

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:711
ANSWERED ON:08.07.2009
WASTE PRODUCT FROM URANIUM MINING
Gandhi Smt. Maneka Sanjay

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the uranium mining in the country including in Jharkhand has resulted in producing large quantity of overburden, excavated soil and rock that covers layer of ore and contains traces of uranium;
- (b) if so, whether the Department of Atomic Energy regulated its disposal
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure its safe disposal?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (INDEPENDENT CHARGES), PMO, PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN)

(a) Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) a public sector undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) is presently operating five underground mines and an opencast mine in Jharkhand State. During development and production, waste rock is excavated which is stacked at a designated place "Waste Rock Dump Yard". The designated waste rock dump yard is located as per approved Mine Plan which is examined and approved by Ministry of Environment and Forests(MoEF) while granting environmental clearance for constructing the mine. The waste rock dump yard is covered with soil and plantation is done on it as per approval of MoEF. This dump yard is located within UCIL's premises and access is controlled. Overburden, excavated soil and also waste rock does not cause any unacceptable radiation exposure.

(b) & (c) Siting surveillance and monitoring of waste rock dump yard where waste rock is disposed are strictly as per stipulations of Atomic Energy Regulatory Board, which also monitors it at regular intervals.

(d) Uranium Corporation of India Limited complies with all stipulations for safe disposal of waste as contained in approved Mining Plan, Environmental clearance granted by MoEF and waste disposal permission granted by Atomic Energy Regulatory Board.