

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4187
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2013
UTILISATION OF VACANT MINES
Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any provision or formulated any action plan for rehabilitation or alternate utilisation and levelling of mines after cessation of mining and mineral processing operation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the changes made in the relevant rules/act in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has also issued any direction to the States/UTs in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details and the response thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) and (b): Rule 23A of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 (MCDR 1988) provides that every mine shall have a Final Mine Closure Plan. As per Rule 3(jj) of MCDR 1988, "final mine closure plan" means a plan for the purpose of decommissioning, reclamation and rehabilitation in the mine or part thereof after cessation of mining and mineral processing operations that has been prepared in the manner specified in the standard format and guidelines issued by the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM).

Further, Rule 23C to Rule 23F of MCDR 1988 provides that the lessee has to submit a yearly report setting forth the extent of protective and rehabilitative work carried out as envisaged in the approved Mining Closure Plan, if there is any deviation, reasons thereof. A financial assurance has to be furnished by every lease holder commensurate with the area to be put to use for mining and allied activities. If the competent authority believes that the protective, reclamation and rehabilitation measures as envisaged in the approved mine closure document in respect of which the financial assurance was given may forfeit the sum assured by adopting due procedure.

Rule 34 of MCDR 1988 provides that every holder of prospecting licence or mining lease shall undertake the phased restoration, reclamation and rehabilitation of lands affected by prospecting or mining operations and shall complete this work before the conclusion of such operations and the abandonment of prospect or mine.

Rule 29A of Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 provides that the lessee shall not determine the lease or part thereof unless a final mine closure plan duly approved by the competent authority is implemented to the effect that protective, reclamation and rehabilitation work in accordance with the approved mine closure plan or with such modifications as approved by the competent authority have been carried out by the lessee.

(c) and (d): Provisions exist in the Rules for mine closure which are monitored regularly by the State Governments and IBM.