

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
STEEL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1135  
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2009  
RE-OPENING OF PANNA DIAMOND MINES  
Deora Shri Milind Murl

**Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Panna Diamond Mines were re-opened after four years following the Supreme Court's conditional clearance for starting mine operations;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the closure of the Panna mines, Madhya Pradesh;
- (c) the target set for State-run National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (NMDC) for the next fiscal year and the amount being spent for this purpose;
- (d) the total number of employees working in the Panna Mines;
- (e) whether any sustenance/monetary assistance was being provided to workers for closing period of Panna Mines; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL(SHRI A. SAI PRATHAP)

(a)&(b): Yes, Madam. Panna Diamond Mine was closed w.e.f. 22.08.2005 for want of environmental clearance, as per orders of Madhya Pradesh Pollution Control Board, Bhopal. As the mine was falling within wildlife sanctuary, clearance of Hon'ble Supreme Court was required for re-opening the mine. Panna Diamond Mine has now been re-opened on 21st August, 2009, after getting conditional clearance from Hon'ble Supreme Court for starting mining operations.

(c) NMDC has set a target of producing 35,000 carats of diamond from Panna diamond mine during next fiscal year for which NMDC plans to spend about Rs. 20.5 crore (variable cost).

(d) A total of 258 employees are working in Panna diamond mine as on 1.11.2009.

(e)&(f): During the period of closure of Panna diamond mine, there was no lay off of workers. Therefore, the question of sustenance/monetary assistance to workers for closing period of Panna Mines does not arise.