

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1862  
ANSWERED ON:09.03.2015  
REHABILITATION OF MINING AREA  
De(Nag) Dr. (Smt.) Ratna

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to restore areas destroyed by mining activities in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the total area affected therefrom, State/UT-wise;
- (c) the details of the funds earmarked for the purpose and role of the State Government therein along with the time by which the restoration, reclamation and afforestation of the entire area is likely to be completed; and
- (d) the corrective steps taken to check any further loss due to illegal mining in any part of the country?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES AND STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI)

(a) to (c): Restoration and rehabilitation of mining areas is a continuous process as per the provisions for Progressive and Final Mine Closure Plans under the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988, which inter-alia provides for:

- (i) decommissioning, phased restoration, reclamation and rehabilitation in the mine thereof after cessation of mining operations;
- (ii) completion of work before conclusion of mining operations and the abandonment of mine as per the approved mine closure plans, and submit a report;
- (iii) financial assurance to be furnished by lessees commensurate with the area to be put to use for mining activities;

Non-compliance of such provisions will lead to forfeiture of the sum assured and other actions under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder.

(d) As per section 23C of the MMDR Act 1957, the State Governments have been empowered to make rules for preventing illegal mining, transportation and storage of minerals. An Ordinance was promulgated on 12.1.2015 to amend the MMDR Act, 1957 which, inter-alia, has the following provisions to curb the menace of illegal mining:

- (i) imprisonment for illegal mining has been increased to a term upto five years with a fine upto five lakh rupees per hectare' from 'term up to two years or a fine up to twenty-five thousand rupees or both';
- (ii) State Governments empowered to set up Special Courts for speedy trial of cases of illegal mining.