

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6149

ANSWERED ON:30.04.2015

IMPACT OF MINING ON ENVIRONMENT

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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken an note that the mining of coal at large scale in coal producing States affects the environment adversely;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether both the public and private sectors coal companies are implementing various schemes to attenuate the adverse effect of production of coal on the environment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the extent to which the said schemes have been implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (b): Coal mining activities have some impact on environment around the local mining areas/belts. Before commencement/enhancement of production from coal mines, the impact on existing Social forestry and environment due to coal mining project are assessed by an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study for each project and based on the same, Environmental Management Plans(EMP) are prepared. EMPs deal with measures to be undertaken to mitigate the impact of pollution, in order to reduce any adverse effect on health of people in & around mine, as per requirement of the project. The EMPs are submitted to Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change (MoEF and CC) for obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC).

(c) to (d): The following corrective measures as per Environmental Management Plan (EMP's) of the concerned coal project approved by MOEF and CC as well as the EC conditions given by MoEF and CC are taken up:-

Air pollution control:

Air pollution is controlled by regular spraying of water on haul & coal transportation roads by fixed as well as portable water sprinklers, Coal Handling Plants, all coal transfer points, coal & overburden (OB) faces, coal stockpiles etc. Other steps include fitting drills with dust collection systems / wet drilling, black topping / concreting of coal transportation roads. Efforts have been made for use of more belt conveyors, rail etc. for coal transportation and to rationalize road transportation to reduce pollution, as per feasibility. Massive trees plantation in and around mines also reduces the impact of air pollution on neighboring areas.

Water pollution control:

Mine water is passes through sedimentation pond wherefrom, after sedimentation, clean runoff water is taken out for beneficial use such as domestic, industrial and agricultural purpose, after treatment to extent possible. Effluents from workshops is passed through Oil and Grease Traps and recycled/reused for dust suppression and for cleaning purposes. In major Mines, domestic effluents are being treated in Domestic Effluent Treatment Plants and in other mines in septic tanks.

Noise pollution control:

Noise pollution is controlled through the careful selection of equipment, proper maintenance and insulation. Persons exposed to high noise level are being provided with ear muffs. This is besides tree plantation between work places and residential areas.

Ecological damage control:

This is controlled by plantation on physically and biologically reclaimed mined out areas and on the OB dump areas, plantation in and around mines, road sides, township / residential areas, available vacant spaces and implementation of conservation plan for protection of flora and fauna as per EC. This is apart from the payment made for compensatory afforestation to Forest departments.

In addition the environmental protection measures are taken in compliance to condition of consent to operate from respective State

Pollution Control Boards. Regular monitoring of various environmental attributes are carried out as per Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to assess the efficacy of environmental protection measures taken and if required additional measures are taken to keep the various environmental attributes within the prescribed limits of the Regulatory Agencies.

(e): Coal Companies are implementing the mitigative measures at the mines as well as in the allied activities.

The status of implementation of these measures is being submitted to Govt. regulating agencies such as MoEF and CC and State Pollution Control Boards periodically. The officials from these agencies also inspect the mines to monitor the compliance of Environmental Clearance conditions.