

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3535  
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2014  
RECLAMATION OF ABANDONED MINES  
Ering Shri Ninong

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

- (a) the details of sick /abandoned mines in the country, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government has evolved any policy in relation to reclamation and rehabilitation of abandoned mines;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the number of abandoned mines reclaimed/ rehabilitated and the purpose for which such reclaimed mining area is being used for during each of the last three years and the current year?

**Answer**

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

(a): State-wise details of non-working mines in the country as on 01.04.2014 is given at Annexure. There is no separate classification of mines as sick/abandoned mines.

(b): There is no policy for reclamation and rehabilitation of sick/abandoned mines in the Ministry of Mines.

However, 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.

Provisions exist in the Rules for mine closure are monitored regularly by the State Governments and IBM.

(c) and (d): Does not arise in view of (b) above.

ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NUMBER 3535 FOR REPLY ON 15.12.2014 REGARDING 'RECLAMATION OF ABANDONED MINES' ASKED BY SHRI NINONG ERING

State-wise details of non-working mines in the country as on 01.04.2014

Sl.No. Name of the State Number of Non-Working Mines

1	Andhra Pradesh	607
2	Assam	4
3	Bihar	12
4	Chhattisgarh	164

5	Goa	334	
6	Gujarat		392
7	Haryana	3	
8	Himachal Pradesh	11	
9	Jammu & Kashmir	11	
10	Jharkhand	159	
11	Karnataka	224	
12	Kerala	1	
13	Madhya Pradesh	670	
14	Maharashtra	145	
15	Manipur	1	
16	Meghalaya	2	
17	Odisha	434	
18	Rajasthan	1623	
19	Sikkim	2	
20	Tamil Nadu	35	
21	Telangana	96	
22	Uttar Pradesh	55	
23	Uttarakhand	13	
24	West Bengal	30	
	Total	5028	

Source: Indian Bureau of Mines