

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3196
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.12.2019

Environmental Degradation Caused by Mining

3196. SHRI A. NARAYANA SWAMY:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any detailed report on the mitigative measures taken to address environment degradation caused by mining in Chitradurga has been submitted to the Government;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether schemes like afforestation and water conservation programmes were part of measures to tackle environment degradation;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the total amount collected from mining companies by Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation (KMERC) to implement such mitigative measures?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO)

- (a) In compliance to the various orders passed by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, New Delhi, the Indian Council of Forestry Research & Education (ICFRE), Dehradun and Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation (KMERC), Karnatakahave prepared the reports and submitted to Hon'ble Supreme Court.

The ICFRE have prepared Macro Level EIA report on study of Chitradurga district of Karnataka has been submitted to the Registrar, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, NewDelhi.

The KMERC have prepared detailed revised report on mitigative measures to address environmental degradation viz. Comprehensive Environment Plan for Mining Impact Zone (CEPMIZ) and submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court during October 2018.

- (b) The ICFRE prepared Reclamation & Rehabilitation Plans (R & R Plan) in respect of individual mines for Government of Karnataka. Out of 24 numbers of mines in Chitradurga, 21 R & R Plans have been submitted to Hon'ble Central Empowered Committee (CEC), New Delhi. The implementations of these plans are being

looked after by the Monitoring Committee constituted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The details of report provided by KMERC, Karnataka is enclosed as annexure-1.

- (c) & (d) The ICFRE have provided detailed afforestation plan and water conservation measures in R& R Plans and have submitted to Government of Karnataka and CEC of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

The KMERC included afforestation and water conservation programmes plans under irrigation and agriculture sectors. As per the report afforestation activities include Ecological Restoration, Assisted Natural Regeneration, Rehabilitation of Mine Areas, Artificial Regeneration, Strip Plantation, Institutional Planting, Farm Forestry and Seedling for Distribution, respectively. The report work out outlay for Chitradurga District under Eco-restoration is Rs. 540.83 Crore, for Watershed Development and other activities under Agricultural Sector is Rs. 324.85 Crore and for Water conservation under Minor Irrigation Sector, it is Rs. 154.70 Crore, respectively.

- (e) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has constituted a Monitoring Committee for auction of the mined iron ore in Karnataka. The details of total amount collected are enclosed as annexure-1.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

KMERC CEPMIZ ABSTRACT					(Rs. in Crores)
Sl. No.	Sector/Districts	Bellary	Chitradurga	Tumkur	Total
1	Eco-restoration				
a	Forestry	1557.79	540.83	500.52	2599.14
b	Pollution Control	27.00	14.81	14.81	56.61
	Sub total	1584.79	555.64	515.33	2655.75
2	Agriculture & allied				
a	Agriculture	442.45	324.85	287.10	1054.40
b	Horticulture	64.73	17.06	14.03	95.82
c	Sericulture	0.00	3.50	3.00	6.50
d	Animal Husbandry	284.76	38.00	22.20	344.96
e	Fisheries	89.99	7.63	3.75	101.37
	Sub total	881.93	391.04	330.08	1603.05
3	Drinking Water, Sanitation & Rural Roads				
a	Drinking Water	2569.98	661.00	236.88	3467.86
b	Sanitation	374.00	37.00	13.00	424.00
c	Rural Roads	520.72	280.68	236.64	1038.04
	Sub total	3464.70	978.68	486.52	4929.90
4	Health				
a	District Hospital	286.17	114.04	131.90	532.11
b	Taluka/CHC/PHC/Ayush/ Blood Bank etc.,	151.17	141.90	77.77	370.84
c	Special Medical Centre Sandur	301.63			301.63
d	Medical College Bellary	711.20	0	0	711.20
	Sub total	1450.17	255.94	209.67	1915.78
5	Education				
a	Pri & Sec Education	413.49	280.58	186.62	880.69
b	PU Education	230.00	50.00	5.66	285.66
	Sub total	643.49	330.58	192.28	1166.35
6	Development of Vulnerable Sections				
a	Women & Children	398.87	94.03	110.78	603.68
b	Social Welfare	200.00	50.00	51.94	301.94
c	Backward Class	78.03	25.31	25.00	128.34
d	Minorities Development	18.70	19.20	10.70	48.60
	Sub total	695.60	188.54	198.42	1082.56
7	Housing	1027.00	106.88	60.00	1193.88
8	Skill Development	436.19	70.79	31.27	538.25
9	Tourism	148.00	34.00	7.00	189.00
10	Irrigation	799.00	154.70	53.00	1006.70
11	Physical Infrastructure	734.99	105.29	44.08	884.36
12	Roads & Communication	1512.55	620.22	426.40	2559.17
13	Railway infrastructure				5271.96
	Grand Total	13378.41	3792.30	2554.05	24996.71

Further to the above, updated report on Railway Backbone (RBB) in respect of three districts has also been submitted to the Hon'ble Court during September 2019.

(b) Proposed Railway sub-lines and sidings at Ballari

CEC had submitted a report on railway sidings and railway sub-lines on 25-10- 2017 to the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Hon'ble Supreme Court had considered the said report and, in its report, dated 21.03.2018 ordered Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation to submit to the Court a detailed project report as well as details of the budgetary and financial requirements in respect of the aforesaid work of railway sidings and railway sub-lines.

The Detailed Project Report (DPRs) for the three-railway siding at Dharmapura, Dhanapura and Susheelnagar and two railway sublines at Dharmapura and Susheelnagar have been submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court during October 2018.

(c) Construction of conveyor belt system

In respect of conveyor belt system to be constructed by the six lessees, the Hon'ble Court had also ordered that:

- (i) *Six lessees to approach State Government within one month for Right of Way/Forest Clearance (FC) approval.*
- (ii) *State/Central Government will finalize the matter expeditiously and in any case within two months from the date of receipt of application.*
- (iii) *Lessees will be required to complete the construction of conveyor belt system within a period of 18 months after acquiring Right of Way (RoW) and/or grant of Forest Clearance.*
- (iv) *The aspect of the matter relating to request of FIMI to discontinue the contribution being made by the lease-holders to the SPV will be considered on the next of fixed after the CEC files its response to the above.*

The six mining lessees in the district of Ballari have taken necessary action to construct the conveyor belt system and have already obtained in principle approval from Forest Department, Govt. of India.

The updated report on RBB include a proposal to set up two railway sidings and sublines at Jayasuvarnapura and Lakkihalli of Chitradurga District to cater to about 9 mines at Jayasuvarnapura and 6 at Lakkihalli; to be connected to the proposed new railway line between Tumkur and Davangere.

As detailed above, the State Government and KMERC has already submitted, the proposal for repair and restoration of the damage caused to the environment by the mining activities in the above districts.

14. Total amount collected from the Mining companies

As per the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Monitoring Committee constituted by Hon'ble Supreme Court for e-action of the mined iron e in Karnataka, has collect a sum of Rs. 9042 Cr from the mining auctions for the works to be taken up by the SPV. Along with Rs.5142 Cr of interest amount total available amount for mining infrastructure and mining impact zone restoration activities is Rs. 14,184 Cr. as on 30.09.2019.

Upon submission of the above, the Hon'ble Court had heard the matter on 24.01.19, and directed Mr. Shyam Divan, learned Amicus Curiae " to examine as to whether it would be expedient and practical for the court to take further steps in the matter of finalization of different plan under the CEPMIZ or whether the said aspect of the matter after broad approval by the Court and after retention of all matters relating to mining infrastructure as suggested by Mr. Jivrajka , former Member Secretary, CEC, should be handed over to the appropriate state agency".

On 13-11-2019, the matter was taken up before the CJI, and it was directed to list the matter before the appropriate bench on 26.11.2019. However, the same was not listed. KMERC is pursuing the matter to get an early approval from the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

10. Irrigation

Karnataka is facing acute shortage of water. India is also the world's biggest consumer of groundwater, according to a 2012 United Nations. Women and children, particularly in north Karnataka, spend most of their time in fetching water. Irrigation tanks, which are natural rain water harvesting structures in rural areas, go a long way, in augmenting the water available and also recharging fast depleting ground water. Therefore, it is proposed to rejuvenate the irrigation tanks, construct check dams for ground water augmentation, lift irrigation schemes etc.

The outlay for irrigation development in the districts of Ballari, Chitradurga and Tumkur is Rs. 799.00, Rs.154.70 Cr, and Rs. 53 Cr. respectively, total for three districts being Rs.1006.70Cr.

The amount proposed for Chitradurga is Rs.154.70 Cr. for development of irrigation and other activities.

11. Physical Infrastructure

Under the head of physical infrastructure, it is proposed to construct bus stations. Transport enables trade between regions, which is essential for the development of economic activity. It is proposed to upgrade the bus station. It is also proposed to construct toilet blocks for maintenance of hygienic conditions.

In order to have control over the movement of goods, it is also proposed to strengthen police stations and check posts under the scheme.

The outlay for physical infrastructure in the districts of Ballari, Chitradurga and Tumkur is Rs. 734.99 Cr, Rs.105.29 Cr, and Rs44.08 Cr. respectively; the total for three districts being Rs.884.36 Cr.

The amount proposed for Chitradurga is Rs.105.29 Cr. for creation of physical infrastructure.

12. Roads and communications

An efficient transport system is considered an economic factor of production. Population, who lives in villages, the topography of the region which consist upon hilly mountainous areas, far flung agriculture lands and the productive resources are scattered all over the region and Roads provide easy and efficient means of transportation. Therefore, it is proposed Reconstruction of roads, Construction of bridges etc.

The outlay for roads and communication in the districts of Ballari, Chitradurga and Tumkur is Rs. 1512.55 Cr, Rs.620.22 Cr, and Rs. 426.40Cr. respectively, total for three districts being Rs.2559.17 Cr.

The amount proposed for Chitradurga is Rs.620.22 Cr. for development of Roads and Communication.

13. (a) Railway Infrastructure

The study report on feasibility of Railway Back Bone required to support mining activities in the mineral bearing region of Ballari, Chitradurga, and Tumkur have also been submitted to the Hon'ble Supreme Court during October 2018. The financial outlay for the above railway infrastructure is given as under:

		(Rs. in Crores)	
1	Ballari district 2 Sub-lines & 3 sidings <i>Land acquisition cost (Approx.)</i>	89.00	330.00
2	Further Sidings (5 No.) in Bellary District <i>Land acquisition cost (Approx.)</i>	101.00	982.62
3	Tumkur -Chitradurga Sub-line & Sidings (3 No.) <i>Land acquisition cost (Approx.)</i>	50.00	1130.00
	Land cost for sublines and sidings	240.00	240.00
4	New Tumkur -Davangere Main line		1826.34
5	<i>Land acquisition cost for BG line</i>		763.00
	Total Cost		5271.96

6. Development of Vulnerable Sections

Vulnerable sections constitute the section of people who are in need of special care. CEPMIZ, for the development of the vulnerable sections, have plans for improving Anganwadis, upgradation of Bal bhavan, schemes for women and disabled like establishment of skill development centers, construction of residential schools for SC/ST, OBC and minorities with facilities for clean drinking water, solar water heaters etc.

The outlay for the above is Rs.1082.56 Cr for all the three districts.

Development of Vulnerable Sections	Ballari	Chitradurga	Tumkur	Total Rs. (Cr.)
Women & Children	398.87	94.03	110.78	603.68
Social Welfare	200.00	50.00	51.94	301.94
Backward Class	78.03	25.31	25.00	128.34
Minorities Development	18.70	19.20	10.70	48.60
Sub total	695.60	188.54	198.42	1082.56

The amount proposed for Chitradurga district for development of vulnerable sections is Rs.188.54 Cr.

7. Housing

Housing is closely associated to the process of overall socio-economic development. It provides shelter and raises the quality of life. It generates conditions which are congenial to the achievement of social objectives such as health, sanitation and education. It provides employment opportunities to the rural and urban people. CEPMIZ envisages Purchase of Land, construction of houses to the families of houseless/site less with all infrastructures.

The outlay for housing in the districts of Ballari, Chitradurga and Tumkur is Rs. 1027.00, Rs.106.88 Cr, and Rs. 60.00 Cr. respectively, the total outlay for three districts being 1193.88 Cr.

8. Skill Development

Improved training and skill development are critical for providing decent employment opportunities. The benefits of skill development could be seen in placement of students of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs). It is reported that most of ITIs have seen almost 100% placement on campus.

CEPMIZ provides for concerted action in several key areas in order to ensure that skill development takes place in a demand driven manner, particularly to cater to the mining industry. Create infrastructure facility for training and employment for gainful employment.

The outlay for skill development in the districts of Ballari, Chitradurga and Tumkur is Rs. 436.19, Rs.70.79 Cr, and Rs. 31.27 Cr. respectively; the total for three districts being 538.25 Cr.

9. Tourism

Tourism contributes towards complete growth and development of a region by bringing numerous economic values & benefits and thus the industry is an important economic growth contributor, and important sources of employment generation. The districts covered under CEPMIZ; particularly north Karnataka has monuments that date back to the 5th century.

Therefore, the scheme envisages creation of tourism infrastructure for economic development in the areas. The outlay for tourism development in the districts of Ballari, Chitradurga and Tumkur is Rs. 148.00, Rs.34.00 Cr, and Rs. 7.00 Cr. respectively; the total for three districts being Rs.189 Cr.

Transport facility can help create job opportunities for peoples in rural area by connecting them to the industry. Roads also help mobility of skilled labour force, diversification of market, and increase in industrial production and play a major role in the economy of the region.

Unprecedented damage has been caused in the districts referred above, due to extensive use of heavy trucks and overloading. Therefore, it is proposed to construct cement concrete roads designed as per IRC standard. The roads will serve the region in improving the pollution, health and socio-economic conditions of the mining affected community.

The outlay for the rural road for the three district is as under:

Rural Roads	Ballari	Chitradurga	Tumkur	Total Rs. Cr.)
Rural Roads	520.72	280.68	236.64	1038.04
Sub total	520.72	280.68	236.64	1038.04

A sum Rs. 280.68 Cr is proposed for Chitradurga District towards rural road development.

4. Health

The community leaving around mining areas is of low-income, and faces environmental risks. CEMPMIZ would give topmost priority to health promotion and improving the quality of health services at the primary care level efficiently and effectively, and would be responsive to the need of the community. The scheme also envisages to improve the functioning of the existing government health infrastructure.

Therefore, the scheme proposes to create adequate health care facility, like mobile health unit, CHC, PHC, /Ayush, blood bank etc. along with required workforce to address health care challenges, as per local requirements. Upgradation of district health hospitals, special medical Centre, health camps etc also would be taken up.

The outlay for the three districts for the above activities is as under:

Health	Ballari	Chitradurga	Tumkur	Total Rs. (Cr.)
District Hospital	286.17	114.04	131.90	532.11
Taluka/CHC/PHC/Ayush/ Blood Bank etc.,	151.17	141.90	77.77	370.84
Special Medical Centre Sandur	301.63			301.63
Medical College Bellary	711.20	0	0	711.20
Sub total	1450.17	255.94	209.67	1915.78

Amount proposed for Chitradurga district under health component is Rs.255.94 Cr.

5. Education

Lack of infrastructure is one of the reasons for the high dropout rates in the schools. This requires concentrated efforts on the educationally backward districts with the majority of out-of-school children. The scheme proposes for development of infrastructure in the schools, viz. drinking water facility, playground, construction of kitchen and dining hall, science lab, computer lab, Library, toilet etc. The scheme also proposes to, wherever necessary to provide infrastructure like new Adarsh Vidyalaya, additional class room/laboratory, Compound wall, etc.

The outlay for the above infrastructure and developmental activities is Rs. 1166.35 Cr. for the three districts.

Education	Ballari	Chitradurga	Tumkur	Total Rs. (Cr.)
Primary & Sec. Education	413.49	280.58	186.62	880.69
PU Education	230.00	50.00	5.66	285.66
Sub total	643.49	330.58	192.28	1166.35

An amount of Rs.330.58 Cr. is proposed for educational infrastructure in the district of Chitradurga.

2. Agriculture and Allied

In the three districts of Tumkur, Chitradurga and Ballari, massive damage has been caused to agriculture sector due to mining activities. Further, Agriculture has been facing enormous challenges like irrigation water shortage, drought & natural calamity etc. for redress of which; provision has been made in the CEPMIZ under the head "irrigation".

With a view to improve the situation, watershed development is proposed in an integrated manner including construction of check dam, nalla bunds, Soil erosion control structures, and advocating Water conservation methods to community etc.

In addition, to improve the socio-economic conditions of the farmers and farm labour, allied activities like horticulture, animal husbandry and fisheries etc. are also included in the scheme.

The outlay for the agriculture and allied sector including horticulture, sericulture, animal husbandry and fisheries for the three district is given below:

Agriculture & allied	Ballari	Chitradurga	Tumkur	Total Rs. Cr.)
Agriculture	442.45	324.85	287.10	1054.40
Horticulture	64.73	17.06	14.03	95.82
Sericulture	0.00	3.50	3.00	6.50
Animal Husbandry	284.76	38.00	22.20	344.96
Fisheries	89.99	7.63	3.75	101.37
Sub total	881.93	391.04	330.08	1603.05

An amount of Rs. 391.04 Cr is proposed for Chitradurga District under agriculture and allied activities as detailed above.

3. (a) Drinking water, and sanitation

Priority has also been given to drinking water programme to cover all affected village and town with 85 LPCD to rural area and 120 LPCD to urban areas. It is proposed to supply drinking water from surface water source as the traditional ground water is found to contain harmful fluorides and nitrites. In order to contain communicable diseases, the scheme also focuses on water, sanitation, and hygiene and proposal also contain construction and maintenance of solid and liquid waste management units.

The outlay for drinking water and sanitation for the three district is given below:

Drinking Water, Sanitation	Ballari	Chitradurga	Tumkur	Total Rs. Cr.)
Drinking Water	2569.98	661.00	236.88	3467.86
Sanitation	374.00	37.00	13.00	424.00
Sub total	2943.98	698	249.88	3891.86

The outlay for drinking water and sanitation in Chitradurga district is Rs.698.00 Cr.

(b) Rural Roads

Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed to submit proposal for road infrastructure for supporting not only mining activities but also socio-economic development of the mining affected region with short- and long-term target.

Details of Mitigative measures covered under the CEPMIZ:

1. Eco-restoration

One of the major components in the scheme is Forest restoration, which is the process of regaining ecological integrity and enhancing human wellbeing. Since the districts of Ballari, Chitradurga and Tumkur have suffered huge environment/forest losses due to mining activities, it is proposed not only to regenerate the lost forest but also conservation of wild life, R&D, afforestation, create awareness and train the local, which would help sustain of forest and ecology. The proposal in the CEPMIZ also includes measures contain pollution through continuous monitoring of the air quality. The afforestation activities proposed consists of the following:

- (ix) Ecological Restoration
- (x) Assisted Natural Regeneration
- (xi) Rehabilitation of Mine areas
- (xii) Artificial Regeneration
- (xiii) Strip Plantation
- (xiv) Institutional Planting
- (xv) Farm Forestry
- (xvi) Seedlings for Distribution

The outlay for all the three district is as under

1	Ballari	1557.79
2	Chitradurga	540.83
3	Tumkur	500.52
	Grand-Total	2599.14

The outlay proposed for Chitradurga under Eco-restoration is Rs. 540.83 Cr.

(b) Pollution Control

The outlay for pollution control for all the three districts is as under:

1	Ballari	26.995
2	Chitradurga	14.805
3	Tumkur	14.805
	Grand-Total	56.605

In addition, a sum of Rs. 14.80 Cr is proposed for pollution control in the district of Chitradurga.

Brief Note on Mitigative Measures

As per the order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 28.09.2012, in order to implement the Comprehensive Environment Plan for the Mining Impact Zone (CEPMIZ) to restore the environmental damage caused in the areas three districts viz. Ballari, Chitradurga and Tumkur, Government of Karnataka, in its order dated 21-06-2014 had established "Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation as a nonprofit company under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.

Further, in its order dated 21.3.2018, Hon'ble Supreme Court, had directed KMERC to prepare:

- (i) a revised comprehensive all-inclusive proposal on socio-economic development and eco-restoration incorporating suggestions on missing items made by FIMI Southern Region and the Monitoring Committee.
- (ii) to submit a proposal relating to road infrastructure needed to support mining activities and socio-economic development of the region and
- (iii) to institute a detailed study relating to the railway backbone required to support the mining activities for connecting all mineral bearing regions of three districts.

As per the above orders, the State of Karnataka-KMERC has already submitted all-inclusive CEPMIZ during October 2018. Further, three DPRs as per Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 7.12.2017 for construction of two sublines and three sidings in Ballari district and the updated study report on Railway Backbone were submitted during September 2019 with a prayer to approve the proposals.