

Mining activity areas declared forest reserves in Jharkhand

2774.SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some areas in the country, particularly some districts of Jharkhand, have been included in the forest reserves whereas mining activities were being carried out in these areas earlier;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether discontinuation of production in these mines due to the inclusion in forest reserves has led to unemployment and development works have come to standstill in these areas;

(d) if so, whether the Ministry of Mines has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change; and

(e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) to (e) Mining activities in the Reserved Forests and other forests areas in the country, including in the State of Jharkhand, are being carried out as per the provisions contained in the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The use of forest land (Protected / Reserved forests) for non-forestry purposes including mining requires prior approval of the Central Government under the provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. The detail in the matter is not maintained centrally in the Ministry of Mines.

Closure of mines in West Bengal

2775.SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of mines in the State of West Bengal and how many of these are open mines;

(b) whether Ministry has specific procedure and check for the closure of used mines, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any provision of punitive action against the improper closure of used mines; and

(d) if so, the details along with names of concerned responsible agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) As per available information, the district-wise number of working and non working mines (except fuel, coal and minor minerals) in the State of West Bengal as on 01/04/2014 is given in Statement (*See* below).

(b) to (d) 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).

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.

Rule 23C, E and 23F of MCDR 1988 provides that:

- (i) The lessee shall submit a final mine closure plan to Regional Controller of Mines or the officer authorised by the State Government in this behalf, as the case may be, for approval one year prior to the proposed closure of the mine.
- (ii) The lessee shall have the responsibility to ensure that the protective measures contained in the mine closure plan referred to in this rule including reclamation and rehabilitation works have been carried out in accordance with the approved mine closure plan or with such modifications as approved by the Regional Controller or the officer authorised by the State Government in this behalf under this rule.
- (iii) A financial assurance has to be furnished by every leaseholder. The amount of financial assurance shall be rupees twenty five thousand for A category mines and rupees fifteen thousand for B category mines, per hectare of the mining lease area put to use for mining and allied activities.

In case the lessee does not undertake the required reclamation and rehabilitation measure as per the mine closure plan, the financial assurance can be forfeited and the sum so forfeited can be used by the concerned State Government for carrying out reclamation and rehabilitation measure. Non implementation of protective measures for reclamation and rehabilitation in accordance with the Final Mine Closure Plan may lead to contravention of rule 23E(1) of MCDR.,1988 for which prosecution case can be filed. The penalty as per rule 58 of MCDR,1988 is imprisonment up to two years and fine up to fifty thousand rupees or with both and in the case of continuing contravention with an additional fine which may extend up to five thousand rupees for every day during which such contravention continues, after conviction for the first such contravention.

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

Statement

*District-wise number of working and non-working mines except fuel, coal
and minor minerals in the State of West Bengal as on 01/04/2014*

| Name of the District | Name of Mineral | Number of working mines | Number of non working mines |
|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| Bankura | China Clay | 2 | 3 |
| | China clay & Fire clay | 4 | - |
| | Fire Clay | 1 | - |
| | Quartz / Quarzite | 2 | 1 |
| | Quartz / Felsper | - | 1 |
| | Silica Sand and Fire Clay | 1 | - |
| | Silica Sand | 1 | - |
| Birbhum | China clay & Fire clay | 7 | 6 |
| | China Clay | 1 | 4 |
| | Fire Clay | - | 1 |
| | Quartz / Felsper | 1 | - |
| Purulia | Apatite | - | 1 |
| | Fire Clay | 1 | -hh |

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
|---------|------------------|----|----|
| | Moulding Sand | - | 1 |
| | Quartz | 2 | - |
| | Quartz / Felsper | - | 3 |
| Burdwan | Moulding Sand | 2 | - |
| | TOTAL | 25 | 21 |

Source: Indian Bureau of Mines.

Shortage of SC and ST employees

2776.SHRI JUGUL KISHORE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage in the appointment of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees in the Ministry, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number of vacancies in different posts and the number of posts to be filled up and the actual strength of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees in Uttar Pradesh and other States under the Ministry;

(c) the corrective measures taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) by when all the vacant posts in the Ministry are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) Group 'A' Posts in the Ministry of Mines (Proper) are either filled up on deputation under the Centrar Staffing Scheme or by appointment of Central Secretariat Service(CSS) officers through Department of Personnel & Training, which is the cadre controlling authority for CSS. Group 'B' & 'C Posts in the Ministry are filled up by Department of Personnel & Training which is the cadre controlling authority of Central Secretariat Stenographers Service and Central Secretariat Clerical Service and ensures filling up of required number of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees as per reservation rosters.

There are two offices under the administrative control of Ministry of Mines, namely, Geological Survey of India (GSI) (Attached Office) and Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) (Subordinate Office), headquarters located at Kolkata and Nagpur respectively. Though these offices are having branch offices in various parts of the country but state-wise roster is not maintained. The filled in and vacant positions in respect of GSI & IBM are as follows: