(iv) the mines management is required to comply with provisions made in this regard, which are checked during the course of inspections by DGMS and take necessary measures to ensure compliance; and

(v) identification of cases of Silicosis/pneumoconiosis requires special knowledge and expertise amongst the medical officers. Regular training courses and workshops are being organized at different centers in the country by the DGMS in which medical officers are being exposed to the latest techniques and tools on the subject.

Usage of vacant mines

†262. SHRI. RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any provision has been made for optional usage of mines lying vacant after mining;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has formulated any action plan to level the vacant mines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) 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).

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 has not been carried out in accordance with the mine closure plan, either fully or partially, the competent authority may forfeit the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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.

Registered/unregistered mines in the country

†263. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are several registered mines operating in the country and if so, the State-wise details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in addition to the registered mines there are other mines also which are operating in the country and if so, the State-wise details thereof; and

(c) whether Government proposes to take any action against mines operating illegally in the States and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): (a) and (b) As per provisions of rule 45 of Mineral Conservation and Development Rules (MCDR), 1988, Indian Bureau of Mines, a sub-ordinate office of the Ministry of Mines, registers mines of MCDR minerals in the country. State-wise details of registered and unregistered working mines in the country as on 31.01.2015 are given below:

Sl. No.	State	Registered working mining leases	Unregistered working mining leases
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	900	59
2.	Assam	4	0

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.