

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Mines, through Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), has developed the Mining Surveillance System (MSS), in collaboration with Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG), Gandhinagar, to use space technology for facilitating State Governments in curbing illegal mining activities in the country. MSS is a satellite-based monitoring system which aims to establish a regime of responsive mineral administration, through public participation, by facilitating State Governments in curbing instances of illegal mining. Any unusual land use change activity observed on satellite imagery in a zone up to 500m from the boundary of mining lease area is captured and flagged off as triggers, which may also include illegal mining. The wider use of Satellite Remote Sensing Technology together with Information Technology will offer quick, transparent and periodic monitoring of mining leases including easy access to remote areas. The MSS also includes user-friendly mobileapp for use of mining officials which will receive alerts, do field verification and submit inspection reports. This mobile app also aims to establish a participative monitoring system where the citizens also can use this app and report unusual mining activity which will be generated as a trigger. The site verification of the trigger would be done by officials of mining departments of concerned States, who will also take appropriate action in cases of illegal mining.

Extension of non-captive leases

1345. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries have demanded that the non-captive leases should be extended till March 31, 2030 in line with the existing captive leases;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the holders of existing non-captive leases have over the years invested a huge amount in exploration and plant machinery; and

(c) whether there is a need to give the first right of refusal to the existing holders when they would come up for auctioning, as in case of captive leases and as demanded by the said Federation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI) has raised the issue for extending the non-captive mining leases till March, 2030.

(b) Mining operations entail deployment of machinery for mining for drilling, excavation etc. Further lessees are also required to deploy machinery to conduct

exploration in case where exploration is required to be undertaken. The details of investment made by the lessees in this regard are not available Centrally.

(c) The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957, was amended through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2015 which is deemed to have come into force with effect from 12.1.2015. As per clause (4) of section 8A inserted through the Amendment Act, a lease shall be put to auction on expiry of the lease period. Further clause (7) of the said section contemplates that any holder of a lease granted, where mineral is used for captive purpose, shall have the right of first refusal at the time of auction held for such lease after the expiry of the lease period. The Ministry does not intend to amend the provisions of the MMDR Act in this regard.

Use of degenerated land due to mining activities

†1346. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the total land covered under large and small scale mining in Jharkhand and the land degenerated due to mining activities there; and

(b) whether Government intends to take necessary action for utilization of the said degenerated land for agriculture, industries, forest and environmental purposes and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) There is no terminology as large scale and small scale mining. However, as per records available with Indian Bureau of Mines (a subordinate office of Ministry of Mines) the total land covered under Category 'A' and 'B' mines defined under Rule 42(2) of MCDR, 1988 in Jharkhand State is given below:

Total lease area covered under category 'A' mines	Total lease area covered under category 'B' mines	Total land area degraded within the lease area of category 'A' mines	Total land area degraded within the lease area of category 'B' mines
19683.58 Ha.	4221.68 Ha.	3916.07 Ha.	772.50 Ha.

(b) Indian Bureau of Mines carries out inspection of mines of major minerals for enforcement of the provisions of the Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988 (MCDR, 1988) which includes systematic and scientific development of mineral deposits, conservation of mineral resources and protection of environment. Rule 23A of MCDR, 1988 prescribes that every mine shall have a mine closure plan *i.e.* Progressive Mine Closure Plan and Final Mine Closure Plan. Through these closure

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.