

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2429
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.12.2021**

ECOLOGICAL IMPLICATIONS OF OPEN COAL MINING

2429 Shri Derek O' Brien:

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

- (a) whether the open coal mines that are listed to be leased under the NMP pose potential environmental and health hazards;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken these aspects into account while listing the open coal mines for lease;
- (c) if so, the details of the measure undertaken, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether there are any policy measures that Government is undertaking to keep a check as owing to lower costs of mining, open coal mines can keep on increasing, thereby further proving to be detrimental for the environment; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)**

(a). No opencast mine is listed to be leased under the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP).

(b) & (c). Does not arise in view of above.

(d) & (e). In order to meet increasing demand of coal from thermal plants and others, production from opencast mining is inevitable in the present perspective. Coal mining, like any other developmental activity, does have some impact on environment. However, such impacts in case of coal mining are generally contained within the project area itself.

It is mandatory to get the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) approved by the competent authority before commencing coal mining operations. Therefore, a detailed Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) is carried out for each project considering pre and post mining conditions for preparing EMPs (Environmental Management Plan) which are discussed in detail by the Expert Appraisal Committee (EAC) under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC). EAC recommends the case and accordingly, Environment Clearance (EC) is granted by the MoEF&CC. While granting EC, MoEF&CC stipulates conditions/mitigation measures for implementing the EMPs which have to be complied with by the project proponents.

On securing EC, the project proponent also secures Consent to Establish (CTE) and Consent to Operate (CTO) under the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 from the concerned State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs). During course of implementation of project, the compliance of the conditions laid in the EC is monitored by MoEF&CC, SPCBs and internally by coal companies.
