

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO – 137**  
ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

**SLOW PACE OF MINE OPERATIONALIZATION**

\*137 SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is slow pace of operationalization of major mineral and coal mines auctioned since last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is low level of investment in mineral exploration, particularly in obvious geological potential areas;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government proposes to set up a Project Monitoring Unit to track auctioned mines in a more systematic manner; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES  
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

**THE STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 137 REGARDING 'SLOW PACE OF MINE OPERATIONLIZATION' ASKED BY SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR REPLY ON 09TH DECEMBER 2024.**

(a) & (b):No Sir. The due date of operationalization for mining leases and composite licences of major minerals auctioned during last 3 years i.e. FY 2021-22, FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 has not yet been reached. Therefore, the mineral blocks auctioned during last 3 years still have time for operationalization.

In case of coal blocks also except Schedule-II coal blocks (operational blocks which were cancelled by order of Hon'ble Supreme Court in 2014), the due date of operationalization has not been reached. In case of Schedule-II coal blocks (which have to be operationalized in 9 months of auction), out of 8 such blocks auctioned, 4 have been operationalized.

(c) & (d):No Sir. The Central Government is making significant investment in mineral exploration, particularly in Obvious Geological Potential (OGP) areas through Geological Survey of India (GSI), Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) and National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET).

(e) & (f): Yes Sir. The PMU will support the Ministry in expediting mineral block operationalization including handholding of successful bidders in getting clearances from different agencies.

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