

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 46
ANSWERED ON 03.02.2025

Ecological restoration of abandoned or defunct coal fields

46 # Shri Dhairyashil Mohan Patil:

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

- (a) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) and other agencies have any responsibility for restoration of abandoned or defunct coal fields;
- (b) if not, the action plan prepared by Government for technological and biological restoration of such coal fields;
- (c) whether the Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) appointed by CIL has submitted its report on indexing the environmental performance of coal fields; and
- (d) whether any economical assessment of the restored coalfields has been carried out?

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

(a) & (b): Ecological restoration activities of abandoned/defunct coal mines are carried out in Coal India Limited (CIL) and coal companies as per the Mine Closure guidelines issued from time to time by the Ministry of Coal.

(c): The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), appointed by Coal India Limited (CIL), has submitted its final Environment Assessment report and Environment performance indexing report of 35 mines of subsidiaries of CIL.

(d): CIL has carried out a study related to “Greening Initiatives in Coal & Lignite PSU” through CMPDI, which outlines the initiatives taken by CIL for increasing of green cover along with road map towards a greener future. Scientific closure of mines are done as per the Guideline for mine closure issued by the Ministry of Coal.
