

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF STEEL

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 266
FOR ANSWER ON 22.07.2025

RECOVERY OF LOW GRADE ORE

266. Ms. MAHUA MOITRA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that in country iron ore mining does not recover low grade ore (below 62% Fe) and is disposed in the tailing or stockpiled- leading to waste of precious natural resource, as other countries like Brazil, China etc. have process plants to recover low grade ore as low as 42% Fe which is converted into pellets for blast furnace for conversion to steel, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the details of steps that the Government is planning, if any, to recover low grade ore which is saleable in the industry; and
- (c) whether PSU's are Going to be incentivised to do this or will private players be allowed to do merchant mining in order to monetise low grade ore?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE (SHRI BHUPATHIRAJU SRINIVASA VARMA)
MINISTRY OF STEEL

(a)to(c): At present, steel is a deregulated sector and the steel companies take decision to beneficiate and utilize low grade iron ore and other raw materials according to their techno-economic considerations, in the processing plants available in the country. Many iron ore miners have facilities to recover and beneficiate lower grade of iron ore.

As per MMDR Act, 1957 (amended in 2021), captive miners including private players have been allowed to sell up to 50% of minerals produced during the year after meeting the requirements as per the MMDR Act.
