

THE MINES ACT, 1952

[Act No. 35 of 1952 dated 15th. March, 1952]¹

An Act to amend and consolidate the law relating to the regulation of labour and safety in mines.

Be it enacted by Parliament as follows: -

CHAPTER I: PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement

(1) This Act may be called the Mines Act, 1952.

(2) It extends to the whole of India ²[***]

(3) It shall come into force on such date³ or dates as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint, and different dates may be appointed for different provisions of this Act and for different States but not later than 31st December, 1953.

2. Definitions

⁴[(1)] In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,-

⁵(a) [***]

(b) "adult" means a person who has completed his eighteenth year;

⁶[(c) "agent", when used in relation to a mine, means every person, whether appointed as such or not, who, acting or purporting to act on behalf of the owner, takes part in the management, control, supervision or direction of the mine or of any part thereof ;]

(d) "Chief Inspector" means the Chief Inspector of Mines appointed under this Act;

⁷[(e) "Committee" means a committee constituted under section 12;]

(f) "day" means a period of twenty-four hours beginning at midnight;

(g) "district magistrate" means, in a presidency-town, the person appointed by the Central Government to perform the duties of a district magistrate under this Act in that town;

⁸[(h) a person is said to be "employed" in a mine who works as the manager or who works under appointment by the owner, agent or manager of the mine or with the knowledge of the manager, whether for wages or not-

(i) in any mining operation (including the concomitant operations of handling and transport of minerals up to the point of despatch and of gathering sand and transport thereof to the mine);

(ii) in operations or services relating to the development of the mine including construction of plan therein but excluding construction of buildings, roads, wells and any building work not directly connected with any existing or future mining operations;

(iii) in operating, servicing, maintaining or repairing any part of any machinery used in or about the mine;

(iv) in operations, within the premises of the mine, of loading for despatch of minerals;

(v) in any office of the mine;

(vi) in any welfare, health, sanitary or conservancy services required to be provided under this Act, or watch and ward, within the premises of the mine excluding residential area; or

(via) in any kind of work whatsoever which is preparatory or incidental to, or connected with, mining operations;]

(i) "Inspector" means an Inspector of Mines appointed under this Act, and includes a district magistrate when exercising any power or performing any duty of an Inspector which he is empowered by this Act to exercise or perform;

⁹[***]

¹⁰[(j) "mine" means any excavation where any operation for the purpose of searching for or obtaining minerals has been or is being carried on and includes-

(i) all borings, bore holes, oil wells and accessory crude conditioning plants including the pipe conveying mineral oil within the oilfields ;

(ii) all shafts, in or adjacent to and belonging to a mine, whether in the course of being sunk or not;

(iii) all levels and inclined planes in the course of being driven;

(iv) all open cast workings;

(v) all conveyors or aerial ropeways provided for the bringing into or removal from a mine of minerals or other articles or for the removal of refuse therefrom;

(vi) all adits, levels, planes, machinery, works, railways, tramways and sidings in or adjacent to and belonging to a mine;

(vii) all protective works being carried out in or adjacent to a mine;

(viii) all workshops and stores situated within the precincts of a mine and under the same management and used primarily for the purposes connected with the mine or a number of mines under the same management;

(ix) all power stations, transformer sub-stations, convertor stations, rectifier stations and accumulator, storage stations for supplying electricity solely or mainly for the purpose of working the mine or a number of mines under the same management;

(x) any premises for the time being used for depositing sand or other material for use in a mine or for depositing refuse from a mine or in which any operations in connection with such sand, refuse or other material is being carried on, being premises exclusively occupied by the owner of the mine;

(xi) any premises in or adjacent to and belonging to a mine on which any process ancillary to the getting dressing or preparation for sale of minerals or of coke is being carried on;]

(jj) "minerals" means all substances which can be obtained from the earth by mining, digging, drilling, dredging, hydraulic quarrying or by any other operation and includes mineral oils (which in turn include natural gas and petroleum);

¹¹[***]

(k) "office of the mine" means an office at the, surface of the mine concerned;

¹²[(kk) "open cast working" means a quarry, that is to say, an excavation where any operation for the purpose of searching for or obtaining minerals has been or is being carried on, not being a shaft or an excavation which extends below surface adjacent ground;]

(l) "owner", when used in relation to a mine, means any person who is the immediate proprietor or lessee or occupier of the mine or of any part thereof and in the case of a mine the business whereof is being carried on by a liquidator or receiver, such liquidator or receiver, ¹³[***] but does not include a person who merely receives a royalty, rent or fine from the mine, or is merely the proprietor of the mine, subject to any lease, grant or licence for the working thereof, or is merely the owner of the soil and not interested in the minerals of the mine; but ¹⁴[any contractor or sub-lessee] for the working of a mine or any part thereof shall be subject to this Act in like manner as if he were an owner, but not so as to exempt the owner from any liability;

(m) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules, regulations or bye-laws, as the case may be;

¹⁵[(n) "qualified medical practitioner" means a medical practitioner who possesses any recognised medical qualification as defined in clause (h) of section 2 of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 (102 of 1956) and who is enrolled on a State Medical register as defined in clause (k) of that section ;]

(o) "regulations", "rules" and "bye-laws" means respectively regulations, rules and bye-laws made under this Act;

(p) where work of the same kind is carried out by two or more sets of persons working during different periods of the day each of such sets is called a "relay" and each of such periods is called a "shift";

¹⁶[(pp) "reportable injury" means any injury other than a serious bodily injury which involves or in all probability will involve, the enforced absence of the injured person from work for a period of seventy-two hours or more;]

17(q) "serious bodily injury" means any injury which involves, or in all probability will involve, the permanent loss of any part or section- of. a body or the use of any part or section of a body, or the permanent loss of or injury to the sight or hearing or any permanent physical incapacity or the fracture of any bone or one or more joints or bones of any phalanges of hand or foot;

(r)"week" means a period of seven days beginning at mid night on Saturday night or such other night as may be approved in writing for a particular area by the Chief Inspector or an Inspector.].

¹²[(2) A person working or employed in or in connection with a mine is said to be working or employed-

(a) "below ground" if he is working or employed-

(i) in a shaft which has been or is in the course of being sunk; or

(ii) in any excavation which extends below superjacent ground; and

(b) "above ground" if he is working in an open cast working or in any other manner not specified in clause (a)].