

**Press Release**  
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## **Chhattisgarh: Mining & Allied Activities Promises In INC's 2018 Election Manifesto Yet to be Implemented**

*The promises made by the INC during the 2018 elections for the Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly in the Mining and Allied Activities portion of their manifesto are yet to be implemented.*

Four years have passed, and the Indian National Congress (INC) has yet to implement any of the five promises stated in the Mining & Allied Section of their 2018 Chhattisgarh Legislative election manifesto. These promises are in alignment with the India's National Mineral Policy 2019 that states "Natural resources, including minerals, are a shared inheritance where the state is the trustee on behalf of the people to ensure that future generations receive the benefit of inheritance. State Governments will endeavor to ensure that the full value of the extracted minerals is received by the State."

Since it is the duty of the State government to protect Chhattisgarh's natural resources for future generations, it is imperative that INC embrace responsibility and keep its promises. The INC ought to act and carry through its promises given that the next election is more than a year away.

The five promises in the Mining and Allied Activities section are-

1. By amending the rules of District Mining Fund, it will be ensured that 50% of the fund will be used for the mining affected person and area, 25% for the fund affected block and 25% for the development works of the affected district.
2. In order to protect natural resources for the next generation, a policy will be formulated on the basis of the principles of intergenerational equity for which a scientific commission will be set up, in which economists and social organisations will also participate as members.
3. An excavation policy will be formulated in which the mine lease will be allotted on the basis of first come first served basis.
4. By reviewing the minor mineral mining policies, its trade will be facilitated and transparency will be brought and the policy will be strictly implemented to ensure increase in government revenue. Locally available minor minerals will be given priority for all development activities and will be imported only if locally available minor minerals are not available.

5. It will be ensured that all the royalties earned from small scale mining will be used only in the development works of areas within a radius of 5 km from mining.

**It is of utmost importance that the state government set up the scientific commission (as promised in point 2) to help develop a policy based on the principle of intergenerational equity. We must ensure the future generations of Chhattisgarh inherit as much as we did.**

**Indu Netam from Adivasi Jan Van Adhikar Manch**, shared her disappointment, *“the Chhattisgarh sarkar has forgotten what it promised in its manifesto. We will continue to remind them the commitments they made to us. She also stressed that, the present generation should have an equitable access to natural resources and its benefits while conserving it for the future generations. Hon’ble CM is aware of the huge mineral wealth losses that are happening in the State, he had written to the Hon’ble PM how the people and future generations of Chhattisgarh have lost over Rs. 9 lakh crores during the coal auctions. However, there is no action.”*

Few civil society groups have sent a letter addressing the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh reminding the state government of its 5 mining related commitments mentioned in their election manifesto and question the lack of total transparency around minor minerals, thereby demanding for transparent portals. **Laxmi Chauhan from Sarthak** suggested, *“The Chhattisgarh government must consider giving minor mineral leases to the local cooperatives run by the Gram Sabha. Community ownership of minerals and their participation is necessary for sustainability of mineral resources and its wealth distribution.”*

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