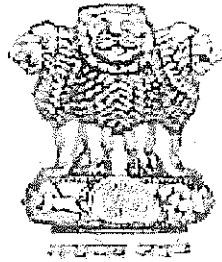


43

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COAL, MINES AND STEEL (2022-2023)
SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA**

MINISTRY OF COAL

**[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained
in the Thirty- Eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on
Coal, Mines and Steel on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Coal]**



FORTY-THIRD REPORT

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
AUGUST 2023/SRAVANA 1945(Saka)**

FORTY- THIRD REPORT

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COAL, MINES AND STEEL (2022-2023)**

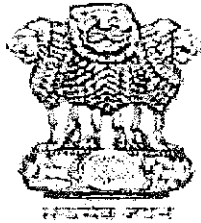
(SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)

MINISTRY OF COAL

**[Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained
in the Thirty- Eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on
Coal, Mines and Steel on Demands for Grants (2023-24) of the Ministry of Coal]**

Presented to Lok Sabha on 01.08.2023

Laid in Rajya Sabha on 01.08.2023



**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
AUGUST 2023/SRAVANA 1945(Saka)**

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COMPOSITION OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL, MINES AND STEEL (2022-23)

Chairperson - Shri Rakesh Singh

Lok Sabha

2. Dr. Venkata Satyavathi Beesetti
3. Shri Vijay Kumar Hansdak
4. Shri Kunar Hembram
5. Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi
6. Smt. Kavitha Maloth
7. Shri S. Muniswamy
8. Shri Ajay Nishad
9. Shri Basanta Kumar Panda
10. Shri S. R. Parthiban
11. Smt. Riti Pathak
12. Shri Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy
13. Shri Chunni Lal Sahu
14. Shri Arun Sao
15. Shri Khan Saumitra
16. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh
17. Shri Sushil Kumar Singh
18. Shri Pashupati Nath Singh
19. Dr. Tholkappiyan Thirumaavalavan
20. Shri Ashok Kumar Yadav
21. Vacant #

Rajya Sabha

22. Shri Subrata Bakshi
23. Smt. Mahua Maji
24. Shri Rwngrwa Narzary
25. Shri Samir Oraon
26. Ms. Saroj Pandey
27. Shri Deepak Prakash
28. Shri Aditya Prasad
29. Shri Dhiraj Prasad Sahu
30. Shri Prabhakar Reddy Vemireddy
31. Shri B. Lingaiah Yadav

#Vacant w.e.f. 30.05.2023 due to sad demise of Shri Balubhau Dhanorkar alias Suresh Narayan, on 30.05.2023 vide Bulletin – Part-II, Para no. 6752 dated 01.06.2023.

Secretariat

1. Shri J.M. Baisakh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Arvind Sharma - Director
3. Shri Yash Pal Sharma - Under Secretary

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairperson, Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Forty-third Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Thirty-Eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel on "Demands for Grants (2023-2024)" relating to the Ministry of Coal.

2. The Thirty-Eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel was presented to Lok Sabha on 21.03.2023. Replies of the Government to all the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Report were received on 14.06.2023.

3. The Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel considered and adopted this Report at their sitting held on 27.07.2023.

4. An analysis on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Thirty-eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee is given at Annexure-II.

5. For facility of reference and convenience, the observations and recommendations of the Committee have been printed in bold letters in Chapter-I of the Report.

NEW DELHI;
31 July, 2023
09 Sravana, 1945(Saka)

RAKESH SINGH
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel

REPORT

CHAPTER I

This Report of the Committee deals with Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirty-eighth Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and Steel on Demands for Grants (2023-24) relating to the Ministry of Coal which was presented to Lok Sabha and laid in Rajya Sabha on 21.03.2023.

2. The Report contained 18 Observations/Recommendations. The Action Taken Replies have been received from the Ministry of Coal in respect of all the 18 observations/recommendations contained in the Report on 14.06.2023. These have been categorised as follows:-

(i) Observations/Recommendations which have been accepted by the Government:

Serial Nos. 1,2,3,5,6,7,8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17 and 18	Total : 17 Chapter-II
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(ii) Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the replies of the Government:

Serial No. NIL	Total : 00 Chapter-III
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(iii) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee:

Serial No. NIL	Total : 00 Chapter-IV
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(iv) Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited:

Serial No. 4	Total: 01 Chapter-V
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3. The Committee do hope and trust that utmost importance would be given to implementation of the Observations/Recommendations accepted by the

Government. In case, where it is not possible for the Ministry to implement the recommendations in letter and spirit for any reason, the matter should be reported to the Committee with reasons for non-implementation. The Committee desire that Action Taken Replies on the Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-I and final Action Taken Statement in respect of Observations/Recommendations contained in Chapter-5 of this Report be furnished to them within three months.

4. The Committee will now deal with the Action Taken by the Government on some of their observations/recommendations made in the Thirty-eighth Report.

FUND ALLOCATION

Recommendation Sl. No. 1

5. The Committee had noted that during the financial year 2022-23, against the Budgeted amount of ₹ 393.24 crore allocated for different programmes/ schemes of the Ministry of Coal, the RE were ₹ 547.88 crore and an amount of ₹419.81 crore was utilized upto February, 2023 which is 76.62 % of the revised allocation. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal during evidence assured the Committee that Revised Estimates for the year will be fully utilized except funds allocated for North Eastern Region. The Committee had, therefore, recommended that the Ministry of Coal should prepare an action plan for fund utilization in NER in future and take up the matter with the North Eastern State Governments so that constraints being faced in implementation of various projects in the Region are addressed.

6. The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have submitted as under:-

Exploration of Coal & Lignite

Funds disbursed under sub-scheme of Detailed Exploration in Non-CIL Blocks and Promotional Exploration of coal & lignite during 2022-23 is furnished below:

(Figures in ₹ Crore)

Sub-Scheme	BE	RE	Funds released	Remark
Detailed Exploration	175	300	272.30	The entire funds were utilized except NER component. Out of ₹ 30 crore under NER component, an amount of ₹ 2.30 crore was released.
Promotional Exploration	75	130	121.30	The entire funds were utilized except NER component. Out of ₹ 13 crore under NER component, an amount of ₹ 4.3 crore was released.

Regarding action plan for funds utilization in NER, it is mentioned that Ministry of Coal is making continuous effort. For this purpose, a capacity building programme in NER region was organized on 06.03.2023 by CMPDI at Shillong to boost the pace of exploration in NER region. In this programme, Ministry of Coal, MECL, representatives of DGMs & DMRs of all coal bearing states of North Eastern Region and Outsourcing Agencies participated actively. The officials of DGMs of State Governments of NER assured the timely initiation of exploration of coal through an Action Plan for NER.

Action Plan for Financial Year 2023-24: 6 blocks (~132 sq km area) in Nagaland, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya have been identified for undertaking Regional (Promotional) exploration during Financial Year 2023-24, wherein 0.12 lakh meter drilling is proposed to be done. Further, 5 blocks (~33.38 sq km) in Nagaland, Assam and Meghalaya have been identified for Detailed exploration during Financial Year 2023-24, wherein 0.05 lakh meter drilling will be done.

Research and Development:

During 2022-23, out of ₹ 8.35 crore, total funds released was 6.935 crore, which includes ₹ 0.84 crore under NER component. For utilisation of fund in NE Region under Research & Development (S&T) scheme during 2023-24, continuous efforts are being made for approval of new project related to NE Region. It is expected that allocated funds for NER will be utilised during 2023-24, after approval of new projects and for ongoing project under execution.

Action Plan for Financial Year 2023-24: On R&D project "Ultrasonic Washing For Desulphurization of Coal" in NER is going on. During 2023-24, some more new R&D projects in NER is expected to be undertaken.

Conservation, Safety and Infrastructural Development in Coal Mines area:

Funds disbursed under scheme/sub-schemes during 2022-23 is furnished below:

(Figures in ₹ Crore)

Sub-Scheme	BE	RE	Funds released	Remark
Environment Measures and Subsidence Control	0.50	0.50	0.00	All the EMSC schemes have been merged in the Master Plan dealing with Fire, Subsidence, Rehabilitation and Diversion of surface infrastructure in Jharia and Raniganj coalfields within the leasehold of BCCL and ECL sanctioned by the Government in August, 2009 at an investment of ₹ 9773.84 crores spread over a period of 10 years. This is being funded partly by the internal resources of CIL and partly from the amount collected by the levying of stowing Excise Duty under the CM(C&D) Act, 1974. Coal India Limited has to first spend ₹ 350 crore from its internal resources and the same amount will be funded from GBS. Total expenditure during the period is less than ₹ 350 crores/year, hence there is no expenditure from CSS fund.
Conservation and Safety in Coal Mines	4.00	4.00	3.60	The entire funds were utilized except NER component.
Development of Transportation Infrastructure in Coalfield areas	50.04	50.04	45.04	The entire funds were utilized except NER component.

No proposal from NER has been received as mining activities in NER are very less.

Action Plan for 2023-34:

DTIC – It has been proposed to construct 4.30 km RRC road by NEC/CIL with budget estimates of ₹ 32.57 crore.

Conservation and Safety in Coal Mines – Projects are being explored.

7. The Committee, in their Original Report had recommended that the Ministry of Coal should prepare an action plan for fund utilization in NER in future and take up the matter with the North Eastern State Governments so that constraints being faced in implementation of various projects in the Region are addressed. The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply has stated that regarding action plan for funds utilization in NER, Ministry of Coal is making continuous effort. For this purpose, a capacity building programme in NER region was organized on 06.03.2023 by CMPDI at Shillong to boost the pace of exploration in NER region. In this programme, Ministry of Coal, MECL, representatives of DGMs & DMRs of all coal bearing states of North Eastern Region and Outsourcing Agencies participated actively. The officials of DGMs of State Governments of NER assured the timely initiation of exploration of coal through an Action Plan for NER. The Committee have also been informed that action plan for 2023-24 under the schemes of Exploration of Coal & Lignite, Research & Development and Development of Transportation Infrastructure in Coalfield Areas have already been prepared. While appreciating the initiatives taken like preparing action plan for fund utilization in NER and taking up the matter with the concerned State Governments for constrained being faced, the Committee hope that funds under NER component will be fully utilized during 2023-24.

PROMOTIONAL (REGIONAL) EXPLORATION

Recommendation Sl. No. 5

8. The Committee had noted that the aim of the Promotional (Regional) Exploration for coal and lignite, a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Coal is to undertake preliminary drilling to assess availability of coal in various areas and the same is being implemented by various agencies viz. Central Mine Planning and Institute Limited (CMPDI), Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) and State Governments concerned. The Committee had also observed that under the Scheme of Promotional Exploration, the budget outlay of ₹ 75 crore at BE stage for 2022-23 was increased to ₹ 130 crore at RE stage and actual utilization was ₹ 114.12 crore upto February, 2023.

The Committee had observed that with the increase outlays, the physical target of 0.40 lakh meter set during 2022-23 have been revised to 0.65 lakh meter. The Committee had appreciated that 0.57 lakh meter of drilling has already been carried out upto January, 2023 and the Exploration target set during 2022-23 will be fully achieved. The Ministry have submitted that there will be 100 percent utilization of funds under the scheme, except NER component during 2022-23. The Committee had stressed that it is equally important to exploit untapped potential in North Eastern Region and, therefore, recommended that the Ministry of Coal should take necessary steps to ensure that the physical and financial targets of Scheme of Promotional Exploration for coal and lignite in North Eastern Region are achieved during 2023-24.

9. The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have submitted as under:-

"CMPDI has achieved about 0.77 lakh meter of drilling during 2022-23 against the target of 0.65 lakh meter. 100% of the fund was utilized, except NER and SC component in Promotional Exploration. Exploration was under progress in 2 blocks in the State of Nagaland and a fund of about ₹ 4.01 crore was utilized in NER during 2022-23".

"Ministry of Coal is taking various steps to achieve the physical and financial targets under the scheme of Promotional (Regional) Exploration for coal in North Eastern Region during 2023-24. 6 blocks (~132 sq km area) in Nagaland, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya have been identified for undertaking Regional (Promotional) exploration during Financial Year 2023-24, wherein 0.12 lakh meter drilling is proposed to be done. Further, 5 blocks (~33.38 sq km) in Nagaland, Assam and Meghalaya have been identified for Detailed exploration during Financial Year 2023-24, wherein 0.05 lakh meter drilling will be done".

10. Taking note of 100 percent utilization of funds under the scheme of Promotional (Regional) Exploration, except NER and SC component during 2022-23, the Committee had stressed that it is equally important to exploit untapped potential in North Eastern Region. The Committee had, therefore, recommended that the Ministry of Coal should take necessary steps to ensure that the physical and financial targets of Scheme of Promotional Exploration for coal and lignite in North Eastern Region are achieved during 2023-24. In their Action Taken Reply, the

Ministry of Coal has stated that CMPDI has achieved about 0.77 lakh meter of drilling during 2022-23 against the target of 0.65 lakh meter. Exploration was reported to be under progress in 2 blocks in the State of Nagaland and a fund of about ₹4.01 crore was utilized in NER during 2022-23. Further, Ministry of Coal is taking various steps to achieve the physical and financial targets under the scheme of Promotional (Regional) Exploration for coal in North Eastern Region during 2023-24. 6 blocks (~132 sq km area) in Nagaland, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya have been identified for undertaking Regional (Promotional) exploration during Financial Year 2023-24, wherein 0.12 lakh meter drilling is proposed to be done. Further, 5 blocks (~33.38 sq km) in Nagaland, Assam and Meghalaya have been identified for Detailed exploration during Financial Year 2023-24, wherein 0.05 lakh meter drilling will be done. While appreciating the various steps being taken by the Ministry of Coal to achieve the physical and financial targets under the scheme of Promotional (Regional) Exploration for coal and lignite in North Eastern Region during 2023-24, the Committee hope that the Ministry will achieve physical and financial targets during the current year.

DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN COALFIELDS AREAS

Recommendation Sl. No. 9

11. The Committee had noted that Budgetary Provision under the Development of Transport Infrastructure in Coalfield Areas for the year 2022-23 was ₹50.00 crore and actual expenditure (upto February, 2023) was ₹40.74 crore. The Committee had also observed that for Development of Transportation Infrastructure in Coalfield Areas for the Financial Year 2023-24, ₹72 crore have been allocated. There are three major rail infrastructure projects being implemented on deposit basis and four Rail infrastructure projects being implemented by JV companies.

Keeping in view that financial assistance is provided to promote coal evacuation infrastructure in coalfield areas under the provision of Colliery Control (Amendment) Rules, 2021 by the Central Government for development of Roads and creation of Rail Infrastructure, the Committee had desired the Ministry of Coal to ensure that funds earmarked under the Development of Transport Infrastructure in Coalfield Areas are fully

utilized. The Committee had also recommended the Ministry to make enhanced demand as per requirement at RE stage under the Development of Transport Infrastructure in Coalfield Areas for the year 2023-24.

12. The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have submitted as under:-

“CCDA Committee in its meeting held on 15.03.2023 has approved the claims of ₹ 140.42 Crore upto September, 2022 under Development of Transport Infrastructure in Coal field (DTIC) scheme. The spill over (2022-23) approved claim amount is ₹ 2.77 Crore. Thus, total approved claims for DTIC Scheme is ₹ 143.19 Crore. At BE 2023-24, an amount of ₹ 72.00 crore have been allocated for this Scheme and the entire allocation will be utilized during 2023-24. Further, new claim proposals received from Coal Companies are under examination for seeking the Sub-Committee recommendation and approval of CCDA Committee. The additional funds will be sought at RE 2023-24 stage”.

13. In their Original Report, the Committee had noted that Budgetary Provision under the Development of Transport Infrastructure in Coalfield Areas for the year 2022-23 was ₹ 50.00 crore and actual expenditure (upto February, 2023) was ₹40.74 crore. The Committee had also observed that for Development of Transportation Infrastructure in Coalfield Areas for the Financial Year 2023-24, ₹ 72 crore have been allocated. Keeping in view that financial assistance is provided to promote coal evacuation infrastructure in coalfield areas under the provision of Colliery Control (Amendment) Rules, 2021 by the Central Government for development of Roads and creation of Rail Infrastructure, the Committee had recommended the Ministry to make enhanced demand as per requirement at RE stage under the Development of Transport Infrastructure in Coalfield Areas for the year 2023-24. In their Action Taken Reply, the Ministry has stated that CCDA Committee in its meeting held on 15.03.2023 has approved the claims of ₹140.42 crore upto September, 2022 under Development of Transport Infrastructure in Coal field (DTIC) scheme. The spill over (2022-23) approved claim amount is ₹ 2.77 Crore. Thus, total approved claims for DTIC Scheme is ₹ 143.19 Crore. At BE 2023-24, an amount of ₹ 72.00 crore have been allocated for this Scheme and the entire allocation will be utilized during 2023-24. Further, new claim proposals received from Coal Companies are under

examination for seeking the Sub-Committee recommendation and approval of CCDA Committee. The Committee have also been informed that the additional funds will be sought at RE 2023-24 stage. Keeping in view new claim proposals received from Coal Companies, the Ministry of Finance need to be convinced for stepping up of allocation of funds under the scheme. The Committee would like to be apprised about the funds allocated at RE stage under the scheme.

CREATING WEALTH FROM WASTE OBR TO SAND

Recommendation Sl. No. 13

14. The Committee had noted that till February, 2023, CIL excavated 1486 million cubic metres (M.CuM) of Over Burden Removal, posting a strong 21% growth over same period last year and achieved 101.4% of progressive target. Backed by high growth, CIL is confident of achieving target of 1634 M.Cu.M during 2022-23. The incremental 272 M.CuM would be highest ever volume increase in a year. While over Burden Removal ensures future production of coal easier and faster, the Committee had also observed that Manufactured Sand is made from 4 times the waste coming out of coal production. As regards Manufactured Sand success and plans to start projects in subsidiaries of Coal India Limited, the Committee have been informed that CIL is manufacturing sand from overburden material. Four such projects, two in Western Coalfields Ltd. and one each in Eastern Coalfields Ltd and Northern Coalfields have cumulatively produced 2.37 Lakh Cubic metres of M-Sand till January, 2023 from over burden removal. The Committee had felt that this initiative by Ministry of Coal and CIL to make sand available for construction in eco-friendly manner is a very novel idea. While appreciating the Manufactured Sand project initiative being started in four CIL subsidiaries which have cumulatively produced 2.37 Lakh Cubic metres of sand from over burden removal, the Committee had desired that such projects be started in all subsidiaries of Coal India Limited.

15. The Ministry in their Action Taken Reply have submitted as under:-

"Apart from four nos. of Operational OB to Sand Plants(2 in WCL & 1 each in NCL and ECL), five more such plants (2 in WCL and 1 each in SECL,BCCL & CCL) are

in various stages of tendering/construction. MCL is also floating Expression of Interest (Eoi) for establishment of such Project”.

16. While appreciating the Manufactured Sand project initiative being started in four CIL subsidiaries which have cumulatively produced 2.37 Lakh Cubic metres of sand from over burden removal, the Committee had desired that such projects be started in all subsidiaries of Coal India Limited. From the Action Taken Reply of the Ministry, the Committee are glad to note that apart from four Operational Over Burden to Sand Plants (2 in WCL & 1 each in NCL and ECL), five more such plants (2 in WCL and 1 each in SECL, BCCL & CCL) are in various stages of tendering/construction. MCL is also floating Expression of Interest(Eoi) for establishment of such Project. The Committee may be apprised of the quantity of Manufactured Sand produced yearly and also the effect of these projects on income generation of Coal Subsidiaries.

CHAPTER-II

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT

FUND ALLOCATION

Recommendation Sl. No. 1

The Committee note that during the financial year 2022-23, against the Budgeted amount of ₹393.24 crore allocated for different programmes/ schemes of the Ministry of Coal, the RE were ₹ 547.88 crore and an amount of ₹ 419.81 crore was utilized upto February, 2023 which is 76.62 % of the revised allocation. The Secretary, Ministry of Coal during evidence assured the Committee that Revised Estimates for the year will be fully utilized except funds allocated for North Eastern Region. The Committee, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Coal should prepare an action plan for fund utilization in NER in future and take up the matter with the North Eastern State Governments so that constraints being faced in implementation of various projects in the Region are addressed.

Action Taken

Exploration of Coal & Lignite

Funds disbursed under sub-scheme of Detailed Exploration in Non-CIL Blocks and Promotional Exploration of coal & lignite during 2022-23 is furnished below:

(Figures in ₹ Crore)

Sub-Scheme	BE	RE	Funds released	Remark
Detailed Exploration	175	300	272.30	The entire funds were utilized except NER component. Out of ₹ 30 crore under NER component, an amount of ₹ 2.30 crore was released.
Promotional Exploration	75	130	121.30	The entire funds were utilized except NER component. Out of ₹ 13 crore under NER component, an amount of ₹ 4.3 crore was released.

Regarding action plan for funds utilization in NER, it is mentioned that Ministry of Coal is making continuous effort. For this purpose, a capacity building programme in NER region

was organized on 06.03.2023 by CMPDI at Shillong to boost the pace of exploration in NER region. In this programme, Ministry of Coal, MECL, representatives of DGMs & DMRs of all coal bearing states of North Eastern Region and Outsourcing Agencies participated actively. The officials of DGMs of State Governments of NER assured the timely initiation of exploration of coal through an Action Plan for NER.

Action Plan for Financial Year 2023-24: 6 blocks (~132 sq km area) in Nagaland, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya have been identified for undertaking Regional (Promotional) exploration during Financial Year 2023-24, wherein 0.12 lakh meter drilling is proposed to be done. Further, 5 blocks (~33.38 sq km) in Nagaland, Assam and Meghalaya have been identified for Detailed exploration during Financial Year 2023-24, wherein 0.05 lakh meter drilling will be done.

Research and Development:

During 2022-23, out of ₹ 8.35 crore, total funds released was 6.935 crore, which includes ₹ 0.84 crore under NER component. For utilisation of fund in NE Region under Research & Development (S&T) scheme during 2023-24, continuous efforts are being made for approval of new project related to NE Region. It is expected that allocated funds for NER will be utilised during 2023-24, after approval of new projects and for ongoing project under execution.

Action Plan for Financial Year 2023-24: On R&D project "Ultrasonic Washing For Desulphurization of Coal" in NER is going on. During 2023-24, some more new R&D projects in NER is expected to be undertaken.

Conservation, Safety and Infrastructural Development in Coal Mines area:

Funds disbursed under scheme/sub-schemes during 2022-23 is furnished below:

(Figures in ₹ Crore)

Sub-Scheme	BE	RE	Funds released	Remark
Environment Measures and Subsidence Control	0.50	0.50	0.00	All the EMSC schemes have been merged in the Master Plan dealing with Fire, Subsidence, Rehabilitation and Diversion of surface infrastructure in Jharia and Raniganj coalfields within the leasehold of BCCL and ECL sanctioned by the Government in August, 2009 at an investment of ₹ 9773.84 crores spread over a period of 10 years. This is being funded

				partly by the internal resources of CIL and partly from the amount collected by the levying of stowing Excise Duty under the CM(C&D) Act, 1974. Coal India Limited has to first spend ₹ 350 crore from its internal resources and the same amount will be funded from GBS. Total expenditure during the period is less than ₹ 350 crores/year, hence there is no expenditure from CSS fund.
Conservation and Safety in Coal Mines	4.00	4.00	3.60	The entire funds were utilized except NER component.
Development of Transportation Infrastructure in Coalfield areas	50.04	50.04	45.04	The entire funds were utilized except NER component.

No proposal from NER has been received as mining activities in NER are very less.

Action Plan for 2023-34:

DTIC – It has been proposed to construct 4.30 km RRC road by NEC/CIL with budget estimates of ₹ 32.57 crore.

Conservation and Safety in Coal Mines – Projects are being explored.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 7 of Chapter-I of the Report)

[Ministry of Coal OM No. 20011/4/2023-IFD dated 14.06.2023.]

PLAN OUTLAY

Recommendation SI No. 2

The Committee further note that the Ministry of Coal for their Central Sector Schemes and other Schemes/Programmes have been allocated an amount of ₹ 642.32 crore (₹ 563.50 crore for Central Sector Schemes and ₹ 78.82 crore for other Schemes/Programmes) for Financial Year 2023-24. The Ministry have stated that they may need more funds due to committed liabilities for the year 2022-23. Taking note of the

importance of ongoing centrally sponsored schemes for increase in coal inventory, development of coal infrastructure, etc., the Committee recommend the Ministry to make enhanced demand for budgetary support as per the actual projected requirements at RE stage.

Action Taken

Exploration of Coal & Lignite

CMPDI has planned 2.00 lakh metre of drilling against the budgeted outlay of ₹ 250 crore under the scheme of Promotional Exploration and 1.6 lakh metre of drilling against the budgeted outlay of ₹ 200.00 crore under the scheme of Detailed Exploration in Non-CIL blocks during 2023-24. Additional fund of ₹ 40.00 crore will be required under Detailed Exploration in Non-CIL blocks in RE stage to clear the anticipated dues of previous year. Enhanced allocation of budget will be taken up with Ministry of Finance at RE 2023-24 stage.

Research and Development:

BE for the year 2023-24 (i.e. ₹ 21.0 crore) under Research & Development (S&T) scheme is expected to be fully utilised for on-going research projects and new research projects to be approved subject to issuance of guidelines under SC & TSP head and receipt of fund from MoC. However, additional funds, if required, will be sought from Ministry of Finance at RE 2023-24 stage.

Conservation, Safety and Infrastructural Development in Coal Mines area:

Requisitions for release of ₹ 28.34 crore against allocation of ₹ 20 crore (BE 2023-24) for Conservation and Safety in Coal Mines and ₹139.00 crore against allocation of ₹ 72 crore (BE 2023-24) for Development of Transportation Infrastructure in Coalfield areas are pending for release. However, additional funds, if required, will be sought from Ministry of Finance at RE 2023-24 stage.

[Ministry of Coal OM No. 20011/4/2023-IFD dated 14.06.2023.]

Recommendation SI No. 3

As regards new policy initiatives of Ministry of Coal during 2022, the Committee are glad to note that a new Sub-sector 'Production of Syn-Gas leading to coal gasification' has been created in 2022 under the Non-Regulated Sector (NRS) linkage auctions in order to

encourage coal gasification technology. Further Government has recently approved a new mechanism for e-auction of coal by the coal companies. This single e-auction window will cater to all Sectors and to promote an optimum utilisation of coal resources in the national interest, the National Coal Distribution Policy (NCDP) has been amended on 11.04.2022 to allow production/ selling of coal from abandoned/discontinued mines and mines of CIL/ SCCL through a transparent and objective manner as per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Coal from time to time.

While appreciating these new initiatives by the Ministry of Coal, whereby clean technologies and availability of coal will be made easier to the consumer, the Committee would like to be apprised of the achievement so far and the targets fixed for the year 2023-24.

Action Taken

In order to promote Coal Gasification and in line with budget announcement for setting up of four gasification projects, Ministry is formulating a policy. CIL and other PSUs are under discussions for forming Joint ventures to set up gasification plants. Ministry is also in consultation with private sector for their involvement in setting up of gasification projects.

Ministry has already notified Policies for incentive in revenue share for uses of coal produced from commercial mines for gasification.

Ministry has also advised CIL for separate auction window for coal gasification.

Progress on Gasification projects are as under:

- (a) CIL has signed MOU with IOCL and GAIL to form a JV for undertaking Surface Coal Gasification (SCG) at ECL to produce Synthetic Natural Gas (SNG). PFR of this project has been prepared by PDIL.
- (b) CIL has signed MOU with BHEL for setting up of a JV for undertaking SCG projects at MCL to produce Ammonium Nitrate. PFR for this project has been prepared by PDIL.
- (c) CIL is undertaking SCG project at WCL on BOO basis. Re-tendering for this project was done in March, 2023.

- (d) NLCIL is undertaking a Lignite to Methanol projects in Tamil Nādu on LSTK basis.
· Tenders for 02 blocks have been floated.

[Ministry of Coal OM No. 20011/4/2023-IFD dated 14.06.2023.]

PROMOTIONAL (REGIONAL) EXPLORATION

Recommendation Sl. No. 5

The Committee note that the aim of the Promotional (Regional) Exploration for coal and lignite, a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Coal is to undertake preliminary drilling to assess availability of coal in various areas and the same is being implemented by various agencies viz. Central Mine Planning and Institute Limited (CMPDI), Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) and State Governments concerned. The Committee also observe that under the Scheme of Promotional Exploration, the budget outlay of ₹ 75 crore at BE stage for 2022-23 was increased to ₹ 130 crore at RE stage and actual utilization was ₹114.12 crore upto February, 2023.

The Committee observe that with the increase outlays, the physical target of 0.40 lakh meter set during 2022-23 have been revised to 0.65 lakh meter. The Committee appreciate that 0.57 lakh meter of drilling has already been carried out upto January, 2023 and the Exploration target set during 2022-23 will be fully achieved. The Ministry have submitted that there will be 100 percent utilization of funds under the scheme, except NER component during 2022-23. The Committee stress that it is equally important to exploit untapped potential in North Eastern Region and, therefore, recommend that the Ministry of Coal should take necessary steps to ensure that the physical and financial targets of Scheme of Promotional Exploration for coal and lignite in North Eastern Region are achieved during 2023-24.

Action Taken

CMPDI has achieved about 0.77 lakh meter of drilling during 2022-23 against the target of 0.65 lakh meter. 100% of the fund was utilized, except NER and SC component in Promotional Exploration. Exploration was under progress in 2 blocks in the State of Nagaland and a fund of about ₹4.01 crore was utilized in NER during 2022-23.

Ministry of Coal is taking various steps to achieve the physical and financial targets under the scheme of Promotional (Regional) Exploration for coal in North Eastern Region during 2023-24. 6 blocks (~132 sq km area) in Nagaland, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and Meghalaya have been identified for undertaking Regional (Promotional) exploration during Financial Year 2023-24, wherein 0.12 lakh meter drilling is proposed to be done. Further, 5 blocks (~33.38 sq km) in Nagaland, Assam and Meghalaya have been identified for Detailed exploration during Financial Year 2023-24, wherein 0.05 lakh meter drilling will be done.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 10 of Chapter-I of the Report)

[Ministry of Coal OM No. 20011/4/2023-IFD dated 14.06.2023.]

Recommendation SI. No. 6

The Committee find that under Promotional (Regional) Exploration for Coal and Lignite Scheme, ₹ 250 crore has been allocated for the Financial Year 2023-24 which is ₹ 120 crore more than the RE 2022-23. The Ministry have stated that the outlay of ₹ 250 crore at BE 2023-24 is sufficient to achieve the proposed target of 2.00 lakh meter & 2D seismic survey in regional exploration. The Committee expect the Ministry to optimally and efficiently utilize the enhanced allocation and display exemplary focus on the implementation of the Scheme for optimal achievement of the physical and financial targets during 2023-24.

Action Taken

CMPDI has planned and drawn Annual Action Plan for carrying out 2.00 lakh meter of drilling coupled with 2D seismic survey under the scheme of Promotional (Regional) Exploration for optimal and efficient utilisation of the fund during 2023-24.

[Ministry of Coal OM No. 20011/4/2023-IFD dated 14.06.2023.]

DETAILED DRILLING IN NON CIL BLOCKS

Recommendation Sl. No. 7

The Committee note that Central Mine Planning and Design Institute limited (CMPDI) carries out detailed exploration in CIL and Non-CIL blocks as per strict timelines, to bring resources falling in indicated and inferred category into the measured (proven) category. The Committee find that under the scheme 'Detailed Drilling in Non CIL Blocks', BE, 2022-23 of ₹ 175 crore has been increased to ₹ 300 crore at RE stage and actual expenditure (upto February, 2023) has been ₹ 255.05 crore. The Committee have been informed that funds will be fully utilized except NER component. These funds will be utilized to meet the projected achievement of 2022-23 as well as to clear the dues of ₹ 197 crore for the previous year.

The Committee are glad to note that funds for such an important Central Sector Scheme of Detailed Drilling in Non CIL Blocks were enhanced during 2022-23 at RE stage and are likely to be fully utilized. The Committee also find that an amount of ₹ 200 crore has been allocated for the financial year 2023-24 for the Scheme. Keeping in view the importance of the scheme, the Committee desire that earnest efforts be made by the Ministry to utilize funds allocated under Detailed Drilling in Non-CIL Blocks and if required, the Ministry of Coal may seek enhanced allocation at RE stage.

Action Taken

CMPDI achieved 1.82 lakh meter of drilling against the target of 1.35 lakh meter during 2022-23. The actual utilization was ₹ 270.04 Crore under the Scheme of Detailed Drilling in non-CIL blocks, against the budget outlay of ₹ 175 crore at BE stage, which was subsequently enhanced to ₹ 300.00 crore at RE 2022-23. 100% of the fund in sub scheme of Detailed Drilling in non-CIL blocks was utilised except NER component.

CMPDI had organised one capacity building programme at Shillong on 6th March, 2023 to boost the pace of exploration in the North Eastern Region. Exploration is under progress in 1 block in the State of Arunachal Pradesh.

To achieve the proposed drilling target of about 2.00 lakh meter and to clear the anticipated dues of ₹ 40.00 crore of previous years, a fund of about ₹ 300 crore will be

required. However, enhanced allocation will be sought at RE 2023-24 stage, to achieve the targets.

[Ministry of Coal OM No. 20011/4/2023-IFD dated 14.06.2023.]

CONSERVATION AND SAFETY IN COAL MINES

Recommendation Sl. No. 8

The Committee observe that under Conservation and Safety in Coal Mines Scheme, the aspect of conservation of coal is taken into account right from the planning stage and maximum recovery is ensured during the implementation stage. The Committee also observe that safety is always considered an utmost priority for coal companies. The Committee find that Budgetary allocation for the year 2022-23 was ₹ 4 crore and actual expenditure (upto February, 2023) stands at ₹3.60 crore.

The Committee are glad to note that during 2023-24, BE has been raised to ₹ 20 crore which is five times higher in comparison to BE 2022-23. The Ministry have informed the Committee that fund allocated during 2023-24 seems to be sufficient as there are approved projects amounting to ₹ 4.13 crore which CCDA Committee approved against the claims of different coal companies for completed works in previous years. Also, CCDA Sub-Committee has recommended claims amounting to ₹ 15.95 crore upto September, 2022 which is to be approved by CCDA Committee. The Committee would, therefore, like to be apprised of the action plan of the Government not only for full utilization of ₹ 20.00 crore during 2023-24 but also suitably enhancing the outlays at RE stage keeping in view the projections made by CCDA Sub- Committee.

Action Taken

CCDA Committee in its meeting held on 15.03.2023 has approved the claims of ₹ 24.21 crore upto September 2022 under Conservation & Safety head in Coal Mines scheme. The spill over (2022-23) approved amount is ₹ 4.13 crore. Thus, the total claims approved for this scheme is ₹ 28.34 crore. Fund allocated under Scheme for 2023-24 is ₹ 20.00 crore and the entire amount will be utilized. Further, new claims received from the

Coal Companies are under consideration for seeking recommendation of the Sub-Committee and thereafter approval of CCDA Committee.

[Ministry of Coal OM No. 20011/4/2023-IFD dated 14.06.2023.]

DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE IN COALFIELDS AREAS

Recommendation Sl. No. 9

The Committee note that Budgetary Provision under the Development of Transport Infrastructure in Coalfield Areas for the year 2022-23 was ₹ 50.00 crore and actual expenditure (upto February, 2023) has been ₹ 40.74 crore. The Committee also observe that for Development of Transportation Infrastructure in Coalfield Areas for the Financial Year 2023-24, ₹ 72 crore have been allocated. There are three major rail infrastructure projects being implemented on deposit basis and four Rail infrastructure projects being implemented by JV companies.

Keeping in view that financial assistance is provided to promote coal evacuation infrastructure in coalfield areas under the provision of Colliery Control (Amendment) Rules, 2021 by the Central Government for development of Roads and creation of Rail Infrastructure, the Committee desire the Ministry of Coal to ensure that funds earmarked under the Development of Transport Infrastructure in Coalfield Areas are fully utilized. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to make enhanced demand as per requirement at RE stage under the Development of Transport Infrastructure in Coalfield Areas for the year 2023-24.

Action Taken

CCDA Committee in its meeting held on 15.03.2023 has approved the claims of ₹ 140.42 Crore upto September, 2022 under Development of Transport Infrastructure in Coal field (DTIC) scheme. The spill over (2022-23) approved claim amount is ₹ 2.77 Crore. Thus, total approved claims for DTIC Scheme is ₹ 143.19 Crore. At BE 2023-24, an amount of ₹ 72.00 crore have been allocated for this Scheme and the entire allocation will be utilized during 2023-24. Further, new claim proposals received from Coal Companies are under examination for seeking the Sub-Committee recommendation and approval of CCDA Committee. The additional funds will be sought at RE 2023-24 stage.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 13 of Chapter-I of the Report)

[Ministry of Coal OM No. 20011/4/2023-IFD dated 14.06.2023.]

PHYSICAL PERFORMANCE OF COAL/LIGNITE PSUs

Recommendation Sl. No. 10

The Committee note that the physical targets set for coal/lignite production during 2023-24 by CIL, SCCL and NLCIL are 780 Million Tonne, 70 Million Tonne and 26.50 Million Tonne respectively. The Committee find that during 2022-23 against the projected physical target of 700 MT, 70 MT of coal production by CIL and SCCL, the actual production (upto January, 2023) has been 550.92 MT and 54.10 MT respectively. The Committee note that production of 619.7 MTs till February, 2022-23 by CIL registered a strong 14.3% growth as compared to production of 542.4 MTs during the same period last year.

The Committee are glad to note the quantum gain in production of 77.3 MTs of Coal by CIL which will not only help in a major gain in breaching the production target of 700 MTs for the Financial Year 2022-23 but also that the Company will achieve a record making 80 MT output increase. The Committee appreciate this outstanding performance by CIL and hope that CIL would continue to achieve the desired production target to help reducing Coal Imports.

As regards NLCIL, against the lignite production target of 23 MT during 2022-23, the actual achievement upto February, 2023 has been 20.9 MT. During evidence held on 28.02.2023 CMD, NLCIL has assured the Committee that targets set for lignite production by NLCIL during 2022-23 will be fully achieved. The Committee also desire that the Company will take steps to ensure targeted coal and lignite production during 2023-24.

Action Taken

During 2022-23, CIL had achieved coal production of 703.20 Million Tonne (MT) against the target of 700 MT and SCCL has also achieved coal production of 65 MT

against the target of 70 MT. NLCIL has achieved Lignite production of 23.53 MT against the target of 26.35 MT for Financial Year 2022-23.

The all India coal production in the year 2022-2023 is 893.08 MT in comparison to 778.21 MT in the year 2021-2022 with a growth of about 14.76%.

The target of Coal Production from CIL and SCCL is 780 MT & 70 MT for the year 2023-24 respectively. NLCIL has planned 26.50 MT of Lignite production for the year 2023-24.

Further, in order to meet coal/lignite demand in the country and eliminating non-essential import of coal, Coal companies are hopeful of maintaining the trends of achieving its target set for 2023-24.

[Ministry of Coal OM No. 20011/4/2023-IFD dated 14.06.2023.]

UG PRODUCTION DRIVE

Recommendation Sl. No. 11

The Committee are happy to note that driven up by environmental concerns, CIL is focusing to unlock its trapped underground reserves. Further, as UG coal is superior in quality and reduces import burden for higher grades of coal, it is also minimally invasive on land avoiding its degradation and society friendly. The Committee have also been informed that CIL has introduced 25 Continuous Miners in 18 UG mines with total production capacity of 10.85 MTY and is planning for deployment of 41 more in 20 mines by March, 2026. Four Powered Support Long Wall (PSLW) equipment are also proposed to be installed by March, 2027. Progress is also reported to be on for reopening 30 discontinued mines having estimated mineable reserves of around 600 MTs.

The Committee believe that opening of trapped underground reserves of Coal production is a right step and it will not only help in meeting production of quality coal but will also reduce import of coal. While appreciating the Government initiative to mine out trapped Coal reserves, the Committee, recommend use of latest technologies that will boost quality coal production from UG mines.

Action Taken

Continuous effort is being made for technological up-gradation in underground mines of CIL to boost coal production from UG mines. Following steps are being undertaken:

- CIL has introduced 26 Continuous Miners in 18 UG mines with total production capacity of 11.91 MTY and planning for deployment of 66 more Continuous Miners in 29 mines by March 2026.
- Two Powered Support Long Wall (PSLW) equipment are running at present and two more are proposed to be installed by March 2027.
- Four Greenfield underground projects having project report (Ketki UG, SECL; Piparwar UG, CCL; Parasia-Belbaid UG, ECL and Tilaboni UG, ECL have been awarded in MDO mode. Total peak rated capacity for these four projects will be 5.67 MTY.
- 37 discontinued/abandoned mines of CIL were tentatively selected for MDO tenders on revenue sharing basis. Out of 37 mines, 9 mines having 10.325 MTY proposed capacity have been awarded and rest of the mines are at different stages of progress.
- Two Highwall miners are running at Sharda project of SECL and 4 other highwall projects have been awarded in different subsidiaries of CIL.

[Ministry of Coal OM No. 20011/4/2023-IFD dated 14.06.2023.]

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF COAL/LIGNITE PSUs

Recommendation SI No. 12

The Committee note that the Public Sector coal/lignite Companies plan their Capital Investment from Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBRS) only, without Budgetary Support from the Government. A Capex amount of ₹ 21030 crores (CIL- ₹ 16500 crores+ NLCIL- ₹ 2880 crore +SCCL – ₹ 1650 crore) has been proposed for the year 2023-24 for production of coal and related development of infrastructure. As regards the extent of implementation of the Capital investment Plans against the allocations during the year 2022-23, the Committee find that against the Budget Estimates of ₹ 21420 crore for all the three Companies (CIL- ₹ 16500 crore, (BE&RE) NLCIL- ₹ 2920 crore (BE& RE) and SCCL- ₹ 2000 crore, (BE) (₹ 1600 crore RE), the actual expenditure upto January, 2023 has been ₹ 16433 crores (78.17%). The utilization of funds has been ₹ 13024 crores (79%) by CIL, ₹ 1803 crore (62%) by NLCIL and ₹1606 crore (100.4%) by SCCL respectively. The Committee have been informed that CIL and NLCIL will fully utilize their CAPEX target for the year 2022-23.

The Committee are happy to note that CIL achieved an all-time record high consolidated profit after tax (PAT) of ₹ 22,597 Crores, in nine months till December, 2022, surpassing even the highest PAT that the company previously achieved for an entire financial year which was ₹ 17,464 Crores in 2018-19. The nine month period profit posted by CIL is a healthy 112% growth compared to profit of ₹ 10,663 Crores during the same period in Financial Year 2022. The Committee are happy to note that during 2022-23, CIL and NLCIL are expected to fully utilize their CAPEX target. The Committee while appreciating the excellent financial performance by CIL for the Financial Year 2022 also recommend the Company to take required steps to ensure similar performance in future.

Action Taken

Coal India Limited

CIL had exceeded its CAPEX target in previous 2 years and in the year 2022-23, CIL has achieved its target of ₹ 16500 crore. CIL has informed that it has taken necessary actions to achieve the target in 2023-24 as well.

SCCL

Out of the ₹ 1650 crore planned for the year 2023-24, Land (₹ 500 crores), solar power plant (₹ 200 crore) and FDG at STPP (₹ 225 crore) are the major head of CAPEX for the year 2023-24. Regular monitoring and follow-up is being done to achieve the CAPEX target of ₹ 1650 crore for the year 2023-24.

NLCIL

CAPEX target for Financial Year 2023-24 has been kept at ₹ 2880 crore. Like in the past year, NLCIL is taking all requisite steps to achieve the CAPEX target for Financial Year 2023-24 also.

[Ministry of Coal OM No. 20011/4/2023-IFD dated 14.06.2023.]

CREATING WEALTH FROM WASTE OBR TO SAND

Recommendation Sl. No. 13

The Committee note that till February, 2023, CIL excavated 1486 million cubic meters (M.CuM) of Over Burden Removal, posting a strong 21% growth over same period last year and achieved 101.4% of progressive target. Backed by high growth, CIL is confident of achieving target of 1634 M.Cu.M during 2022-23. The incremental 272 M.CuM would be highest ever volume increase in a year. While over Burden Removal ensures future production of coal easier and faster, the Committee also observe that Manufactured Sand is made from 4 times the waste coming out of coal production.

As regards Manufactured Sand success and plans to start projects in subsidiaries of Coal India Limited, the Committee have been informed that CIL is manufacturing sand from overburden material. Four such projects, two in Western Coalfields Ltd. and one each in Eastern Coalfields Ltd and Northern Coalfields have cumulatively produced 2.37 Lakh Cubic metres of M-Sand till January, 2023 from over burden removal.

The Committee feel that this initiative by Ministry of Coal and CIL to make sand available for construction in eco-friendly manner is a very novel idea. While appreciating the Manufactured Sand project initiative being started in four CIL subsidiaries which have cumulatively produced 2.37 Lakh Cubic metres of sand from over burden removal, the Committee desire that such projects be started in all subsidiaries of Coal India Limited.

Action Taken

Apart from four nos. of Operational OB to Sand Plants (2 in WCL & 1 each in NCL and ECL), five more such plants (2 in WCL and 1 each in SECL, BCCL & CCL) are in various stages of tendering/construction. MCL is also floating Expression of Interest(EoI) for establishment of such Project.

Comments of the Committee

(Please see Para 16 of Chapter-I of the Report)

[Ministry of Coal OM No. 20011/4/2023-IFD dated 14.06.2023.]

EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF MINE WATER

Recommendation SI No. 14

The Committee note that coal/lignite PSUs, discharged 7,848 lakh Kilo Litre mine water till March, 2022. Around 47 percent of the water is used by the nearby communities both for domestic and irrigation purpose in 871 villages {CIL (727 Villages), SCCL (104 Villages) and NLCIL (40 Villages)} and 16.18 Lakh population is benefited. The Committee are glad to note that mine water discharged from CIL's mines have benefited 11.10 lakh people in 837 villages in the proximity of CIL's mining areas for domestic and irrigation purpose during the year which is more 110 villages and 42,000 more populace benefited as compared to entire Financial Year 2021-22. While appreciating effective utilization of mine water, the Committee hope that the Coal/Lignite PSUs will continue such good work in future as well.

Action Taken

In Financial Year 2022-23, Coal/Lignite PSUs have discharged around 8130 Lakh Kilo Litre mine water, out which around 46 percent of the water is used by the nearby communities for domestic and irrigation purpose across 981 villages (CIL-837, SCCL-104 and NLCIL-40) benefitting around 17.70 Lakh population. In Financial Year 2022-23 surplus mine water of 282 Lakh Kilo Litre have gainfully been utilized as compare to Financial Year 2021-22.

[Ministry of Coal OM No. 20011/4/2023-IFD dated 14.06.2023.]

ECO RESTORATION BY ABANDONED MINES

Recommendation SI No. 15

The Committee observes that CIL's plantation in its mining areas soared almost double to present 1613 hectares from 862 hectares of Financial Year, 2021. CIL is converting its abandoned mines into eco-parks which have become popular as eco-tourism points. Taking note of 30 such eco-parks already developed, the Committee would like to be appraised of the Plans of CIL for creation of more such eco parks, by eco-restoration of abandoned mine sites.

Action Taken

Bio-reclamation of mined out areas as well as plantation in coal regions is important for sustainable development. Coal/Lignite PSUs has brought about 8,160 hectares of land under green cover through plantation of more than 182 lakh saplings during Financial Year 2019-20 to Financial Year 2022-23. In Financial Year 2022-23, 2,370 hectares (CIL-1613 Ha, NLCIL-199 Ha & SCCL-558 Ha) of land has been brought under green cover through plantation of around 50 lakh saplings.

Further, development of Eco-parks/Tourism sites to promote mine tourism is one of the key thrust areas of Ministry of Coal and Coal/Lignite PSUs. The Eco-parks/Tourism sites provide avenues for recreation, adventure, water sports, bird watching etc. for the people residing in nearby areas. Coal/Lignite PSUs have created more than 30 Eco-parks/Mine Tourism sites so far. Development of Eco-parks is part of Ministry's Vision Document (2019-20 to 2023-24) for creation of 10 new Eco-parks/Tourism sites and Ministry of Coal has achieved this milestone in Financial Year 2022-23 before hand.

[Ministry of Coal OM No. 20011/4/2023-IFD dated 14.06.2023.]

FIRST MILE CONNECTIVITY

Recommendation SI No. 16

The Committee find that Ministry of Coal have taken up 71 First Mile connectivity Projects for seamless evacuation of coal, 8 Projects (6-CIL & 2- SCCL) of 95.5 MTPA capacity have already been commissioned. As regards, the 44 First Mile Connectivity (FMC) projects of CIL for coal evacuation through Rail, the Committee note that these have been planned in two phases to strengthen coal evacuation facility.

The Committee note that First Mile Connectivity (FMC) will not only ensure timely delivery of coal but will also help in reducing pollution during transport of coal by road. Out of these, in Phase-I, 35 Projects are to be implemented by financial year 2023-24 with a capacity of 414.5 MTPA and another 9 Projects (under Phase-II) have been taken up which will cater to dispatch of around 57 MTPA of coal. Out of 35 FMC Projects of Phase-I, 6 Projects of 82 MTPA capacity have already been commissioned and 3 Projects of 30 MTPA are anticipated to be commissioned by March, 2023.

The Committee are glad to note that all the First Mile Connectivity (FMC) Projects of Phase-I are anticipated to be completed by Financial Year 2023-24 and out of 9 FMC Projects (Phase-II) of which 3 FMC Projects totalling to 14 MTPA are under construction and the remaining 6 Projects are under different stages of formulation and tendering.

The Committee also observe that projects of 300 MTPA capacity are under various stages of construction and are on schedule. The Committee are happy to note that the Ministry of Coal and Coal Companies are on a fast track to implement these projects and after Implementation of FMC Phase-I and FMC Phase-II, Coal India Limited will increase the mechanized evacuation to 623 MTPA by Financial Year 2024-25.

The Committee are happy to note that Coal India Limited is spending ₹ 13000 to ₹ 14000 crore through its internal resources for these FMC Projects. While appreciating the initiatives taken by the Ministries of Coal and Railways, the Committee desire that both Phase I and Phase-II of this ambitious project should be implemented and completed in a time bound manner as targeted to fulfill the desired objectives.

Action Taken

CIL is undertaking 59 FMC Projects in 03 phases [33 in phase-I, 9 in phase-II and 17 in Phase-III]. NLCIL is undertaking 3 projects. SCCL is also undertaking 05 FMC projects in 03 phases [3 in phase-I, 1 in phase-II and 1 in phase-III]. 7 projects of CIL and 2 projects of SCCL have already been commissioned. Another 18 projects of CIL are expected to be commissioned by December, 2023.

[Ministry of Coal OM No. 20011/4/2023-IFD dated 14.06.2023.]

INITIATIVES UNDER PM GATI SHAKTI

Recommendation Sl. No. 17

The Committee note that the Ministry of Coal, in view of cleaner environment in coal transportation has given momentum in rail evacuation and also initiating new efforts to gradually move away from road movement of coal in country. According to the Ministry of Coal, planned construction of new broad gauge rail lines in Greenfield coal bearing areas,

extending the rail links to newer loading points and doubling and tripling the rail lines in some cases will enhance rail capacity considerably. The Committee further observe that the Ministry of Coal has undertaken 13 Railway Projects to develop multimodal connectivity and identified missing infrastructure gaps for each projects. Four Railway projects are successfully mapped in the National Master Plan (NMP) portal under High Impact projects which will be developed in the States of Jharkhand and Odisha and will facilitate movement of coal with rapid logistics and wider connectivity for all the commercial miners During 2022, Bhadrachalam Road-Sattupalli New BG rail Line and MCRL Phase-I, Angul - Balram Rail Link have been commissioned. While appreciating the initiatives taken by the Ministry of Coal under PM Gati Shakti, the Committee desire that the Ministry of Coal in coordination with the Ministry of Railways should fix a timeline for implementing these projects.

Action Taken

Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Railways is closely working with Department for Promotion of Industry and Industrial Trade for mapping of 13 rail projects on National Master Plan under PM Gatishakti. Further, Ministry of Coal is monitoring implementation status of all these 13 rails projects on monthly basis to ensure timely commissioning of these projects.

[Ministry of Coal OM No. 20011/4/2023-IFD dated 14.06.2023.]

ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THE MINISTRY

Recommendation Sl. No. 18

While appreciating the steps taken by the Ministry of Coal to enable accelerated coal production during the last few years, the Committee observe that the Ministry of Coal has achieved objectives like infrastructure development to augment coal and washed coal production, leveraging technology to minimize environmental externalities, cutting edge research and development initiative, enhancing exploration to augment resource base and attracting private investments. The Committee are hopeful that Coal India Ltd. will continue to make remarkable contribution in the coal sector. Further, Central Government schemes of the Government like Research and Development, Promotional Exploration, Detailed Drilling in non CIL Blocks, Conservation and Safety in Coal Mines and Development of

Transport Infrastructure in Coalfield Areas will pave the way for Atmanirbhar Bharat in the coal sector. The Committee expect that with concerted efforts all physical and financial targets set by the Ministry will be achieved efficiently.

Action Taken

Exploration of Coal & Lignite

CMPDI has planned 2.00 lakh metre of drilling against the budgeted outlay of ₹ 250 crore under the scheme of Promotional Exploration and 1.6 lakh metre of drilling against the budgeted outlay of ₹ 200.00 crore under the scheme of Detailed Exploration in Non-CIL blocks during 2023-24. The physical and financial targets are likely to be achieved during 2023-24.

Research and Development:

Innovation and Indigenization' (under Make-in-India Concept) is one of the thrust areas identified by MoC for future R&D in coal & lignite sector. Efforts are continuing for promoting the concept of Atmanirbhar Bharat through different R&D projects in coal/lignite sector. It is expected that all the physical target set by the Ministry will be achieved successfully.

It is expected that the funds ₹ 21 crore allocated at BE 2023-24 for Research & Development (S&T) scheme will be utilized entirely. If required, additional funds, will be sought from Ministry of Finance at RE stage.

Ministry of Coal has also formed a Committee to promote Make in India /AtmaNirbhar Bharat initiatives for coal sector. Committee has submitted its report, which is under examination in the Ministry.

Physical and Financial Targets:

For the Financial Year 2023-24, coal production target for CIL is 780 MT and the proposed CAPEX target is ₹ 16500 crore. Appropriate measures are taken by CIL for achieving this target as has been done in previous financial year i.e. Financial Year 2022-23.

SCCL

SCCL has set the coal production/ dispatch target of 75 MT (including 5 MT from Naini mine) for the year 2023-24 from the present level of 67 MT. CAPEX target for the year 2023-24 is ₹ 1650 crores. SCCL will achieve the physical and financial target.

[Ministry of Coal OM No. 20011/4/2023-IFD dated 14.06.2023.]

CHAPTER-III

**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE COMMITTEE
DO NOT DESIRE TO PURSUE IN VIEW OF THE
GOVERNMENT'S REPLIES**

-NIL-

CHAPTER-IV

**OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH REPLIES OF THE
GOVERNMENT HAVE NOT BEEN
ACCEPTED BY THE COMMITTEE**

-NIL-

CHAPTER-V

OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPECT OF WHICH FINAL REPLIES OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE STILL AWAITED

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Recommendation Sl. No. 4

The Committee observe that actual utilization for Centrally Sponsored (Research & Development) Scheme for 2022-23 against Revised Estimates of ₹ 8.35 crore, were ₹ 6.30 crore (upto 28.02.2023). Now, during 2023-24, the Ministry had proposed ₹ 21.00 crore for research activities, which has been approved by the Ministry of Finance. As regards physical performance is concerned, the Committee have been informed that during 2022-23, against the 11 ongoing projects, two are completed till 31.12.2022 and nine projects were approved by SSRC and thus 17 projects were ongoing as on 31st December, 2022.

While appreciating the ongoing R&D works in Coal Sector, where Projects for development of clean coal technologies, safety in coal mines and protection of ecology are identified and prioritized for implementation for a safe and secure clean energy future, the Committee are hopeful that the Ministry of Coal would optimally utilize the funds allocated during 2023-24 under the R & D Scheme. The Committee also recommend that a robust mechanism be developed to review progress of Coal S&T projects.

Reply of the Government

During 2022-23 (RE), allocated funds of ₹ 6.94 crore for General & NER were utilised. Funds allocated under ST & SC components during 2022-23 could not utilised due to non-issuance of guidelines/modalities for utilisation of SC &ST component of fund.

It is expected that entire allocated funds for 2023-24 will be utilised subject to issuance of guidelines/modalities for utilisation of SC &ST component of fund, approval of new S&T projects by SSRC.

The following monitoring mechanism has been followed for various on-going and new projects under R&D:

- (a) Progress of Coal S&T projects is monitored by CMPDI at regular interval. Progress is also reviewed by the Technical Sub-committee of Standing Scientific Research Committee (SSRC) as well as the SSRC headed by the Secretary (Coal). Implementing agencies submit quarterly progress reports of the projects to CMPDI which, after examination, are placed before Technical Sub-committee and SSRC.
- (b) Periodic visits to the implementing institutes are undertaken by CMPDI officials to monitor the progress of the projects and necessary assistance is extended to them.

[Ministry of Coal OM No. 20011/4/2023-IFD dated 14.06.2023.]

NEW DELHI;
31 July, 2023
09 Sravana, 1945 (Saka)

RAKESH SINGH
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Coal, Mines and
Steel

MINUTES OF THE SEVENTH SITTING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL, MINES AND STEEL (2022-23) HELD ON 27 JULY, 2023 FROM 1530 HRS TO 1640 HRS IN HON'BLE CHAIRPERSON'S CHAMBER, ROOM NO. '210', B-BLOCK, PHA EXTENSION BUILDING, NEW DELHI

The Committee sat from 1530 hrs. to 1640 hrs.

PRESENT

Shri Rakesh Singh - Chairperson

Lok Sabha

2. Dr. Venkata Satyavathi Beesetti
3. Shri Vijay Kumar Hansdak
4. Shri Kunar Hembram
5. Smt. Kavitha Maloth
6. Shri S. Muniswamy
7. Shri S. R. Parthiban
8. Smt. Riti Pathak
9. Shri Chunni Lal Sahu
10. Shri Arun Sao
11. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh
12. Shri Sushil Kumar Singh
13. Shri Pashupati Nath Singh
14. Shri Ashok Kumar Yadav

Rajya Sabha

15. Smt. Mahua Maji
16. Shri Rwngrwa Narzary
17. Shri Samir Oraon
18. Ms. Saroj Pandey
19. Shri Deepak Prakash
20. Shri Aditya Prasad
21. Shri B. Lingaiah Yadav

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri J.M. Baisakh - Joint Secretary
2. Shri Arvind Sharma - Director
3. Shri Savita Bhatia - Deputy Secretary
4. Smt. Sunanda Chatterjee - Deputy Secretary

2. At the outset, Chairperson welcomed the Members to the sitting of the Committee. The Committee, thereafter, considered and adopted the following draft Reports without any amendments/changes:-

(i) **** **** **** **** ****

(ii) **** **** **** **** ****

(iii) Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the 38th Report (Seventeenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2023-24) relating to the Ministry of Coal.

(iv) **** **** **** **** ****

(v) **** **** **** **** ****

3. The Committee then authorized the Chairperson to finalise the Reports and present the same to both the Houses of Parliament.

4. **** **** **** **** ****

The Committee, then, adjourned.

*Not related to the Report.

(Vide Para IV of Introduction)

**ANALYSIS OF ACTION TAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT ON THE
OBSERVATIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE THIRTY EIGHTH REPORT OF
THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL, MINES AND STEEL (SEVENTEENTH LOK SABHA)**

I.	Total No. of Recommendations made:	18
II.	Observations/Recommendations that have been accepted by the Government (<i>vide</i> recommendation at Sl. Nos. 1,2, 3, 5, 6,7, 8,9,10,11,12,13,14,15,16,17 and 18):	17
	Percentage of total	94.45%
III.	Observations/Recommendations which the Committee do not desire to pursue in view of the Government's replies (<i>vide</i> Recommendation at Sl. No. Nil):	00
	Percentage of total	0%
IV.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which replies of the Government have not been accepted by the Committee (<i>vide</i> recommendation at Sl. No. Nil):	00
	Percentage of total	0%
V.	Observations/Recommendations in respect of which final replies of the Government are still awaited (<i>vide</i> recommendation at Sl. No. 04):	01
	Percentage of total	5.55%