

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:201
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
EXCESSIVE COAL MINING
ALE NARENDRA

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether excessive coal mining is taking place in many mines in the country ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether wide cracks have appeared in various coal mines and the surrounding areas which have caused danger to the mines and residence and the situation can be more dangerous in the rainy seasons; and
- (d) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL & MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): No, Sir. Excessive coal mining are not taking place in the mines of CIL and its subsidiaries as well as in the mines of Singareni Collieries Company Limited, which are the major coal producing companies.

(b): Does not arise in view of reply given to part(a) above.

(c) & (d): Extraction of coal by caving method causes cracks/subsidence at surface. However, these are planned and done where there is no surface feature. Prior permission is obtained from DGMS for such caving operation. Thus such planned subsidences do not cause any danger to the mines or houses.

These cracks are being filled up and are regularly blanketed with muck/soil, which is a regular operation in coal mining areas. This prevents breathing of air from surface and reduces the danger of spontaneous heating of coal.

As regards entry of water through these cracks, garland drains are made around the area which may be effected due to depillaring operations. In some cases, bunds are also made to prevent entry of water through these cracks.

There are many shallow old underground workings of the past (erstwhile owners) which are now in-accessible, water logged and unstable. Due to failure of pillars in such old workings, cracks/subsidence takes place. Illegal mining may cause cracks/subsidence also.

A High Level Committee was constituted by Government to study the problems of fire and subsidence prone areas in Raniganj & Jharia coalfields. Recommendations of the above high level committee is under implementation.