

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6014

ANSWERED ON:06.05.2002

CLOSURE OF COAL MINES

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

- (a) whether Coal India Limited (CIL) has recently submitted a report proposing closure of Eastern Coalfields Limited's (ECL) 22 mines, which it termed as unprofitable;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government propose to close down the loss making mines in the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, coal mine-wise;
- (e) the number of workers likely to be rendered jobless as a result thereof ; and
- (f) the action being taken in this regard ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has proposed for suspension of mining operations for the time being in 22 underground mines in a phased manner, keeping in view the safety considerations, economic viabilities and exhaustion of coal reserves etc. Closure of a terminally sick mine having depleted reserves and heavy operational cost is considered desirable in order to turn around loss making coal companies. The Management of ECL has also proposed for optimum utilisation of its men and machinery and the men and machinery of the 22 mines operation of which is proposed to be suspended will be redeployed in other potential/profitable mines.

(c) to (f): The decision to close/suspend operations in any mine is taken by the company concerned after taking into consideration various factors including exhaustion of coal reserves, safety considerations, technical feasibility and economic viability etc.

Forty-nine mines have so far been identified for suspension of operations which would be done in phases spread over years and not simultaneously. Their numbers, State-wise are as follows:

Subsidiaries	State	
	West Bengal	Jharkhand
ECL	20	2
BCCL	-	15
CCL	-	12

No employees will be terminated/retrenched. Manpower will be re-deployed in other viable/potential mines. However, workers opting for VRS will be considered.