

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6879  
ANSWERED ON:13.05.2002  
LOSS TO BCCL DUE TO BURNING OF COAL  
LAXMAN GILUWA

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

- (a): the total areas of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) goaffected from underground fire and the quantum of coal destroyed thereby alongwith the progress made under the fire fighting project aimed at :
- (b): the coal reserves still available in Jharia region and the quantum of coal destroyed due to the fire;
- (c): the steps proposed to be taken to control fire and save Jharia town;
- (d): whether the Government propose to shift Jharia town; and
- (e): if so, the details thereof alongwith the rehabilitation package?

**Answer**

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

- (a): Total area affected by fire in BCCLas per study conducted by CMPDIL in 1999 is around 8.9 sq.km. out of the total leasehold area of about 280 sq. km.. Total reserve lost due to fire is estimated at around 37 million tonnes. 10 fires have been extinguished. Spreading of fire in BCCL has been retarded/controlled butcould not be fully controlled, in spite of best efforts, due to enormity of the problems.
- (b): Total geological reserve in Jharia Coalfields as assessed by GSI as on 1.1.2002 upto a depth of 1200 metre is19.43 billion tonnes. Reserve destroyed due to fire is around 37 million tonnes.
- (c): The following measures are being taken byBCC Lto control fire depending upon the conditions: - Blanketing/surface sealing/sealing - Sand flushing - Inert gas injection - Trench cutting - Water pooling etc.
- (d)&(e): A Master Plan for 'Dealing with Fire, Subsidence and Rehabilitation in the Leasehold ofBharat Coking Coal Limited' was prepared in March 1999. The MasterPlan envisages rehabilitation of unstable and uncontrollable subsidence prone habitated areas of Jharia Coalfields including parts of Jharia town. The total cost of such rehabilitation as per the above Master Plan is Rs. 1981.14 crores (March 1999 base).