

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7199
ANSWERED ON:12.05.2000
UNSAFE MINES
MAHBOOB ZAHEDI

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

- (a) whether the Apex Monitoring Committee headed by the Chairman of Coal India Ltd. declared 40 sites in Asansol Sub-Division in West Bengal as unsafe for human habitation in 1990 because of the vacuum created by illegal mining;
- (b) if so, the steps taken for stabilization, shifting and rehabilitation;
- (c) whether a large stretch of land near GT Road in Benali caved-in on 28th January, 2000; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the above fall outs?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINES & MINERALS

SMT. RITA VERMA

(a): The Apex Monitoring Committee constituted by the Chairman, CIL and headed by Shri H.B. Ghose Ex-CMD, CMPDI carried out the study of the available details between 1990- 92 in respect of the unstable areas in Raniganj coalfield and listed 49 locations which were considered to be unstable and potentially unsafe for human habitation. The places identified as unstable within the course of the above study relate to the old and abandoned workings which had been made prior to nationalisation and were not due to vacuum created by illegal mining.

(b): Since 1990, efforts have been made for stabilising some of these identified locations by filling sand using a novel method known as 'Hydro-Pneumatic' sand stowing. This process is in use for stabilisation at the following locations.

1. Arun Talkies - In Raniganj Municipal area
2. Kumar Bazar - In Raniganj Municipal area
3. Hariपुर village - In Jamuria Municipal area
4. Barakar village - In Asansol Municipal Corporation area
5. Fateपुर village - In Asansol Municipal Corporation area

However, the process of stabilisation by Hydro- Pneumatic stowing is slow.

A scheme for rehabilitation for four unstable localities had also been prepared in 1998 for a total cost of Rs. 32.52 crores and was approved by Government of India. However, the progress of implementation of this scheme is not satisfactory because of reluctance of the affected people to agree to shift to the identified safe locations.

(c) & (d): An area of about 15M X 18M east of ECL residential complex and Benali VTC and 800 metres north of G.T. Road, subsided at about 9.30 A.M. on 26-1-2000. The spot was dozed in presence of local police. Information of the incident was sent to DGMS and other senior officers of local Govt. administration. The subsidence took place due to illegal mining by making a number of well type pits in the outcrop region and not through any abandoned incline or pit of ECL.