

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:550
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2003
INFRASTRUCTURAL PROBLEMS OF COAL MINES
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any steps have been taken/being taken by the Government to resolve the infrastructural problems of the coal mines and to ensure safety therein;
- (b) if so the details thereof;
- (c) whether the coal mines located in various States in general lack safety; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken to bring about improvement in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.550 for answer on 29.04.2003 regarding infrastructural problems of coal mines.

(a) & (b): Safety in mining operations in the coal mines is accorded primary importance by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and infrastructural matters related to safety receive continuous attention at all levels in CIL.

The following broad infrastructural facilities have been provided for enhancement of safety in the coal mines of CIL:

1. Staffing : Appointing supervisory personnel at various levels having the qualifications prescribed by the Coal Mines Regulations (CMR), 1957. Assessment of the status of supervisory personnel is monitored by the apex level body of workmen's participation in safety like the Standing Committee on safety in coal mines Chaired by the Hon'ble Minister of Coal and the CIL Safety Board and corrective action taken from time to time.

2. Safety equipment : Coal India Ltd. has been providing modern safety equipment in its mines:

- (i) Gas detection equipment including highly capital intensive Environmental Tele-Monitoring Systems (ETMS), .
- (ii) Safety boring equipment including large diameter boring machine for evacuating workmen who may be trapped belowground.
- (iii) Personal protective equipment.
- (iv) Dust sampling instruments.
- (v) Equipment to monitor support performance and for monitoring roof strata behaviour.
- (vi) Rescue equipment.
- (vii) Flame proof apparatus, intrinsically safe equipment.
- (viii) Audio-Visual-Alarm systems in HEMM, fire-fighting systems, etc.

3. Internal Safety Organisation (ISO): A structured, multi-disciplinary Internal Safety Organisation has been established at each subsidiary company, as well as at the apex CIL level, reporting to a Technical director of the company. The ISO monitors the safety status of mines, makes recommendations and monitors the status of implementation of those recommendations.

4. Workmen's participation in safety : Establishment of workmen's participation in safety management through various fora, where workmen's representatives participate, from Safety Committees and Workmen's Inspectors at mine level, to bipartite/ tripartite committees at 'area' level, to tripartite committees at subsidiary company level, to the Coal India Safety Board at the apex CIL level.

5. Rescue organisation : Coal India Ltd is maintaining a well equipped rescue organisation staffed by well trained rescue personnel to provide rescue cover in the event of emergency. Six rescue stations, fifteen rescue-Rooms-with- Refresher-Training Facilities (RRRT) and seventeen rescue rooms are being maintained as recommended by the Dubey Committee and the sub-committee formed under recommendations of the 14th meeting of the Standing Committee in coal mines.