

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3560
ANSWERED ON:19.08.2003
POLLUTION FROM MINES OF MCL
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Mahanadi Coalfield mines produce and emit large quantity of suspended particulate materials in the atmosphere and pollute the area around to a large extent;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to combat this pollution from the mines;
- (c) whether the Government have plans to control pollution and protect the environment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL) :

- (a) No, Sir. Suspended Particulate Materials (SPM) produced during the course of coal mining by MCL is kept within the prescribed standards of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).
- (b) to (e) The SPM is kept within the prescribed standards of CPCB through the following air pollution control measures :
 - (i) Black topping and widening of roads and their proper maintenance.
 - (ii) Provision of dust extractor/wet drilling arrangement in all the drilling machines,
 - (iii) Fixed sprinklers have been provided at Coal Handling Plant (CHP), railway siding and permanent haul road.
 - (iv) Mist generators have been provided at the coal unloading point of feeder beaker in the CHP.
 - (v) Instant shower system have been provided in few mine on the coal transportation roads for showering the loaded coal trucks which passes through showering zone. Once the coal truck moves out from the showering zone, showering stops automatically.
 - (vi) Green belts have been created between mines and residential area.
 - (vii) Massive afforestation have been done in the coalfields area and till date more than 34 lakhs trees have been planted since inception of MCL in 1992. In addition environmental monitoring is being carried out fortnightly by Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited whose laboratory is approved by CPCB to monitor the suspended particulate material in the ambient air.