

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5827

ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005

FIRES IN COALFIELDS

Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan);Singh Shri Uday;Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Coal India Limited has been spending crores of rupees every year to fight the recurring underground fires in the Raniganj and Jharia coalfields;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any estimate of destruction of coal have been assessed due to underground fires in Raniganj and Jharia Coalfields;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Central Team has visited the sites of the said underground coalfields to assess the situation; and
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (Dr.DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a)& (b):Efforts are being made to contain the fires in Jharia and Raniganj coalfields. The details are given as under:

Jharia Coalfields

Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) is presently dealing the fires in Jharia coalfields mostly inherited at the time of nationalisation and subsidence from the fLmds sanctioned by this Ministry. Twelve schemes for control of fire and subsidence were sanctioned since 1997 of which six have already been completed. The total expenditure Incurred till date in above schemes is Rs. 16.33 crores. Additional new schemes approved by BCCL Board for an outlay of Rs.84.57 crores in 2004-05 have also been taken up.

Raniganj Coalfields

In Raniganj coalfield, Bastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), the fire is in a very limited are i and it is under control. Time to time blanketing in fire area h needed which is being done.

(c)& (d):As per study conducted by Central Mine Planning & Design Institute earlier, reserves of coal lost due to fire are estimated at around 37 million tones in Jharia coalfield. No such study was made for Raniganj coalfield as the fire is in limited area.

(e)&(f):A high level committee was constituted under chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Coal in 1996 to look after the fire, subsidence and rehabilitation problems in Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields. This committee had visited fire sites during 1996-97 and gave its recommendations in January, 1998, which are under implementation.