

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:377
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2006
ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS OF COAL MINING
Pradhan Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the mining activities are conducted by taking into account the adverse impact on the environment of the surrounding areas;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to increase the forest cover in the coalfields areas and to make the water bodies in the concerned areas pollution free;
- (c) the areas of coalfields covered under forestation schemes at present; and
- (d) the steps taken to check water pollution in the said areas especially in Orissa during the last financial year?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN)

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

Statement referred in parts (a) to (d) of the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 377 for 10.5.2006.

(a): Yes, Sir. The mining activities are taken up after taking into account the adverse impact on the environment of the surrounding areas for which prior Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is done and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) of a project is prepared. Both EIA and EMP are submitted to Ministry of Environment & Forests (MOEF) for its approval. The mining operation is started only after approval of EIA/EMP.

(b): Afforestation is taken up every year and green belts are developed around the mine site, along the roads, dispatch points, in and around the colonies, as dust barrier in between project and residential areas. The following steps are also taken to increase growth and quality of forest cover.

i) Generally, six-month-old saplings are planted.

ii) Plantation activities are entrusted to State Forestry Department

iii) Locally grown species of forestry, timber, medicinal & fruit bearing trees are planted.

iv) Expertise from National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Tropical Forest Research Institute (TFRI) etc are sought for biological reclamation of Over Burden (OB) dumps and degraded land.
Steps taken to make the water bodies pollution free include following :-

i) Mine water is discharged into the nullahs/natural streams in general after treatment in settling tanks/ponds/mine sumps. Regular monitoring of water quality is done and quality of discharged water is kept well within allowable limits.

ii) Effluents from workshops / Coal Handling Plant (CHP)s / washeries are treated in effluent treatment plants/grease traps and the treated effluent is used in sprinklers for dust suppression and washing of Heavy Earth Moving machinery (HEMM)/tippers etc.

iii) Integrated domestic sewage treatment plants have been commissioned to treat effluents from colonies.

iv) Filter plants have been provided in general to supply drinking water to the colonies, projects and nearby areas.

(c): Extensive afforestation is carried out in the following places of lease area.

i) In and around mine / infrastructures.

ii) In and around the colonies.

iii) Along the roads.

iv) In and around Rehabilitation villages.

v) Vacant lands.

vi) Non-action Overburden dumps.

vii) Subsided areas of underground mines.

(d): The following water pollution control measures are adopted before discharging outside, the excess water available in the mine.

i) Sedimentation ponds, settling tanks are provided for settlement of suspended solids in water.

ii) Oil and grease traps are provided for treatment of workshop effluents.