

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4102
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2010
DAMAGE ON NATIONAL HIGHWAY-32
Munda Shri Arjun

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether mining of coal is restricted upto 45 metres from both the sides of National Highway No. 32 under the provisions of Mines Regulation Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the sides of the road at Mahuda on the stretch from Bank More Dhanbad to Bokaro on National Highway No. 32 has been damaged by fire due to violation of the said rules; and
- (d) if so, the measures being taken by the Government to protect the said stretch?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS(SHRI R. P. N. SINGH)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Since nationalization of the Coal Mines, mining activities have been carried out by Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) keeping safe distance of 45 mtrs from NH-32. Only activities carried out by BCCL around NH-32 were for fire fighting as per the directives of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS).

(c): Minor subsidence of NH-32 has occurred across the fire zones of Jharia Coalfield in Km.16 at Godhur, Km.17 at Kenduadih and at Km.20 at Putki in Kenduadih Colliery area. Kenduadih Colliery is a very old mine and was started in 1892 and was extensively worked by M/s East India Company. The mine has since been abandoned & closed. The NH-32 passes through the middle of this colliery in East-West direction. Large unapproachable goaved out areas of pre-nationalization mining period i.e. prior to 1971, occur at shallow depth of 12-30 m beneath and near to the NH-32 on north and south side in this area. Subsidence and pot holing is a regular phenomena in this area due to this. As such this area has already been declared unstable by DGMS.

(d): Though the area was mined unscientifically by the erstwhile private owners all available methods to stabilize the area have been tried by the colliery authorities of BCCL. Mining areas in Jharia Coal Fields within the leasehold of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) Dhanbad are faced with problem of fire and subsidence due to century old history of mining. A joint survey has been conducted by State RCD official and BCCL and it has been decided to dig out the entire affected stretch of NH-32 and reclaim it after control of fire. It has been decided to divert the NH-32 traffic on alternate routes during the process of digging & reclamation. RITES has been appointed as consultants and is preparing the Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the above scheme.