

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4615  
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2010  
ACCIDENTS IN WCL  
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

**Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the number of accidents in the coal mines are on the rise due to the violation of safety norms and rule in extraction of coal by the Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Ltd. (CIL);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Director General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad has taken any action against WCL by taking cognizance of the violation of safety norms and rules;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any action is likely to be taken against the officers found responsible for accidents in WCL in view of the increase in cases of violation of safety norms and rules; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) & (b): No, Sir. As gathered from Ministry of Labour & Employment, it may be stated that there is a declining trend in fatal accidents in Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) from the year 2006 onwards. However, in case of serious accidents, no specific trend is observed. The details from 2006 onwards are furnished below:

Number of	Year	Year	Year	Year	Year	2010
Accident	2006	2007	2008	2009	(till	October)

Fatal Accident 13 12 11 11 11

Serious Accident 46 53 29 38 34

Figures are provisional and subject to reconciliation with DGMS

(c) & (d): Yes, Sir. The details of action taken against the persons held responsible for fatal accidents that occurred in Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) during the last three years and the current year are given in Annexure.

(e) & (f): Officers of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) carry out regular inspections of the mines and issue violation letters for violation of statute and monitor the rectification process. In case of serious violations, prohibitory orders are issued. In some cases prosecution against the erring management is launched in the Courts of law. As per statutory provision, each and every fatal accident is enquired into by officers of DGMS. Based on the findings of the enquiry, necessary action is taken against persons held responsible for the accident and guidelines are also issued in order to prevent recurrence of such accident.