

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:209

ANSWERED ON:24.11.2010

CLOSURE OF COAL MINES

Chowdhury Shri Bansagopal;Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and details of coal mines abandoned/declared closed during each of the last three years and the current year by each of the subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. (CIL);
- (b) the estimated loss incurred to these subsidiaries as a result thereof during the above period;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to restart these closed/ abandoned mines including Kunostoria Colliery of Eastern Coalfields Limited;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, coalmine-wise; and :
- (e) the financial assistance provided to CIL for the revival of these mines and the details of mines revived so far?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT AS MENTIONED IN STARRED QUESTION NO.209 FOR ANSWER ON 24.11.2010 ASKED BY SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAW AT AND SHRI BANSAGOPAL CHOWDHURY:

(a): The number and details of coal mines abandoned/declared closed during each of the last three years and the current year by each of the subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) are given below :

Sl. No Year of Subsi-diary Name of mines Reasons
Suspension

1 2007-08 WCL Inder UG Mine converted to
Opencast Mine.

SECL Kumda 1&2 Extractable reserve
exhausted

2 2008-09 ECL Sangramgarh UG On economic and
safety grounds

WCL Pench East OC Mine closed due to
exhaustion of extractable
reserve

SECL Nowrozabad Extractable reserve
(East) exhausted

3 2009-10 ECL Madhusudanpur Exhaustion of mineable
3&4 Pit reserve in working seam

WCL 1. Pathakhera-I UG Both mines closed due to exhaustion of extractable
2. Gajendoh UG reserves

SECL 1. Kotma West OC Extractable reserve exhausted

2. Banki 9 & 10

3. Jainagar 5 & 6

4 2010-11 ECL Manoharbahal UG, a Exhaustion of mineable unit of Barmondia- reserve in working seam
(A) Colliery

BCCL Madhuband UG Technical reason

NEC Ledo and Baragolai On Safety grounds
UG mine

In CCL, NCL and MCL - no mine has been abandoned / declared closed during the last three years and the current year.

(b): No direct loss was incurred owing to suspension of operation of these mines, due to exhaustion of their extractable reserve/conversion of underground mine to opencast mine/safety/economic considerations etc. However, the manpower and other assets of these closed mines have been transferred and gainfully utilized in the neighbouring mines, where there is surplus capacity.

(c) & (d): As indicated earlier, since most of the mines have been abandoned/ closed due to exhaustion of mineable reserves in these mines or conversion of underground mine to opencast mine, the question of opening these mines does not arise. However, to study these projects/mines, a High Level Task Force was constituted by CIL to identify the problems and prospects of enhancing underground coal production. The task force identified 121 underground mines or parts of mines, which were in disuse or abandoned. Due to the fact that re-working these mines would entail considerable fresh investment and would call for specialized technological support, it was thought prudent to re-work these mines through joint venture companies, with the participation of private parties having suitable expertise and financial background.

A further scrutiny of the 121 identified mines was carried-out and initially 18 mines, each having more than 10 million tonnes coal reserves (to make the proposition attractive to the prospective JV partners), were selected for re-working through the joint venture route. The model tender document has been prepared by CIL and has been sent to the Subsidiary Companies for issuing tenders amongst the short-listed parties. Tenders are to be floated after obtaining the approval of the respective Boards of Directors.

As far as the case of Kunnustoria colliery is concerned, the entries to this mine was sealed in November, 2009, due to uncontrolled condition of fire, and it was abandoned/closed on safety grounds. The same can only be restarted whenever underground mine environment become suitable for mining operations.

(e): CIL has sufficient surplus funds and hence no separate financial assistance needs to be provided to CIL for the revival of these mines.