

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3568
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010
POLLUTION FROM COAL COMPANIES
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether large scale coal mining in coal producing States have devastating effect on environment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the coal producing companies in public as well as private sector are implementing various schemes to reduce the impact on environment;
- (d) if so, the details of such schemes;
- (e) the funds earmarked by C1L and its subsidiaries during the last three years and the current year for this purpose; and
- (f) the success achieved in implementing the schemes?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The mining and allied operations do affect the environment, to some extent, like pollution of air, water etc and degradation of land, mainly in the case of surface mining.

However, before taking up the mining projects, a detailed Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study is conducted and subsequently an Environment Management Plan (EMP) for the project is prepared to mitigate the possible adverse impact and incorporate the corrective action to be taken up. This EIA/EMP is submitted to Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) for obtaining the Environmental Clearance (EC).

(c) & (d): The implementation of the various mitigation measures mentioned in the approved EMP as well as the additional conditions stipulated by MOEF in the EC, are taken up in a phased and regular manner. Periodical compliance reports are sent to MOEF on half yearly basis, Besides MOEF, State Pollution Control Boards also carry out periodical monitoring to ascertain the correct implementation of the environmental mitigation measures.

(e): The details of fund spent by C1L subsidiaries on Environment during last 3 years and the anticipated expenditure for 2010-11 (figures in Rs. lakhs) for this purpose are as under:

(In Rs. lakhs)

Name of the Subsidiary	Fund spent on Environment protection	Anticipated Expenditure		
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	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
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ECL	255.66	1595.16	465.50	466.84
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BCCL	598.00	703.00	438.00	93.00
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CCL	458.06	6.48	675.75	626.14
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NCL	506.05	688.56	790.26	849.00
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SECL 1807.00 2438.00 2416.00 5735.00

WCL 651,52 815.09 1498.29 3104.89

MCL 3462.00 4462.00 4374,00 3503.00

NEC 19.09 17.55 51.70 130,35

Total CIL 7757.38 11355.84 10709.50 14508.22

(f): The success achieved in implementation the schemes are as under :

i) After analyzing the satellite data of 2009, for 49 major OCPs, it has been revealed that 79% of mining area has been reclaimed, out of which, 52% of area has been re-vegetated where 27% is back-filled and only 21% is under active mining.

ii) The satellite data of the year 2008 v/s 2009 reveals that in all 49 OC projects, plantation area, green coverage and backfilled area have increased.

iii) 3.48% area (32.98 sq.km) of land reclamation has increased in the year 2009 compared to year 2008.

iv) 1.97% area (21 sq.km) of green cover has increased in the year 2009 compared to year 2008 whereas only 0.23% area of green cover has increased in India in the last two years as per the report of Forest Survey of India 2009.

CIL has planted around 73 million of trees over an area of around 32300 ha, thereby increasing the green cover. This efforts towards improvement of the environment through massive plantation has improved the climate of the coalfields. The analysis of meteorological data for the period 1985-1995 and 1996-2002 carried out by the Conservator of Forests indicates a decline in average temperature and increase in average rainfall in Singrauli coalfields as under:

i) 0.1^o C decrease in annual average minimum temperature

ii) 0.4^o C decrease in annual maximum temperature

iii) Average rainy days increased by 11.2 days

iv) Average annual rainfall increased by 105.6 mm.