

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:199

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011

ACCIDENTS IN COAL MINES

Laguri Shri Yashbant Narayan Singh; Rama Devi Smt.

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether instances of caving in of coal mines and other mine accidents have been reported in some of the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, coal mine-wise and year-wise;
- (c) the number of persons killed/injured in each of these accidents;
- (d) whether the causes of accidents have been inquired into;
- (e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the follow-up action taken thereon; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check recurrence of such accidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (f) of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 199 for reply on 9.3.2011.

(a) to (c): Caving is done after extraction of coal by depillaring using the caving method, where it is permitted. For this, the mine management obtains permission from DGMS. No person got injured or died due to caving in CIL during the last three years.

Coal-mine-wise, year-wise, details of other mine accidents reported in the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) during the last three years (2008 to 2010), and the number of persons killed in each of these accidents are given in Annexure- I and the details of company-wise and year-wise serious accident and serious injuries in CIL during the last three years (2008 to 2010) are given in Annexure- II.

(d) & (e): The causes of all such accidents have been enquired into. The causes and circumstances leading to mine accident have been identified and recommendations of enquiring authorities for preventing such incidents /accidents have been complied with.

(f): Ministry of Labour and Employment (MOLE) through the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) is responsible for monitoring and enforcing safety in coal mines as per the provisions of the Mines Act 1952. Coal mine operators are responsible for compliance of safety standards in mines as per the Mines Act 1952 and the Rules and Regulations thereunder. Safety performance monitoring is a continuous process and DGMS is the nodal agency for prescribing the standards of safety in coal mines. Safety circulars are issued by DGMS taking into account the necessary improvements in safety standards and Coal Mines Regulations (CMR) are amended from time to time incorporating the necessary changes in safety standards on the basis of observations made during safety inspections and recommendations of various safety committees and courts of inquiries. All the major accidents / fatal accidents are enquired in detail by the mine managements as well as the DGMS. Government also constitutes Courts of Inquiry under the provision of Mines Act 1952, depending on the severity of the accidents. Persons found guilty are prosecuted by the Government and the mine managements also take disciplinary action against the guilty. Tripartite safety committees comprising of mine management, Trade Unions

(TUs) and DGMS officials review and monitor the safety standards in mines and make recommendations. At the national level, the safety aspects of coal mines in the country are reviewed periodically by a Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines under the Chairmanship of Minister of Coal. Based on the decisions taken in various meetings coal companies are taking the following action:

Regular safety audit of mines and risk assessment to mitigate the potential dangers

Filling up statutory vacancies on priority for effective safety monitoring

Safety monitoring through multi-disciplinary Internal Safety Organization (ISO)

Workers participation in safety management

Thrust on training & retraining of supervisors and workmen including contractor's workers

Scientific roof support systems based on rock-mass-rating

Regular monitoring of mine environment for detecting inflammable and noxious gases

Mechanization of mining operations