

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:664

ANSWERED ON:03.08.2011

ACCIDENTS IN COAL MINES

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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of accidents in coal mines and the number of workers died and injured, separately due to such accidents reported during the last three years and the current year, company-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the details of compensation, relief, etc. provided to the injured miners and families of deceased in such cases, company-wise, State-wise;
- (c) the number of cases of compensation still pending, company-wise and State-wise;
- (d) the funds allocated and utilized for safety arrangements in the coal mines during the above period, company-wise and State-wise;
- (e) whether the Government has made any appraisal of safety of the miners to prevent such accidents; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken to prevent such accidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a): The number of fatal accidents/fatalities and the number of persons seriously injured during the last three years and the current year, company-wise and state-wise is given in Annexure-1 & Annexure – II respectively.

(b) : In case of fatality: Coal Company provides the following compensation, relief etc. to the family of deceased who died in any mine accidents arising out of and in course of employment.

1. Payment of compensation under Workmen Compensation Act, 1923 (it is now called as Employee's Compensation Act-1923 as per official gazette notification dated on 23rd December, 2009)
2. Employment is offered to eligible kin of the deceased. In case there is no eligible person for employment, monetary compensation per month is paid to the family of the deceased.
3. Special Relief / Ex-gratia package of Rs. 5 Lakhs, which is in addition to the amount payable under Workmen Compensation Act-1923 for departmental employee.
4. Immediate payment for funeral expenses and transport etc. to the family of deceased.
5. Monetary benefits under Life Cover Scheme (LCS).
6. Gratuity on the basis of the length of service, P.F as per CMPF rule, encashment of EL and Payment of Pension as per CMPS, 1998 are paid in addition to the above compensations.

In case of serious bodily injury: Compensation under the Workmen Compensation Act-1923 is being paid to serious bodily-injured person involved with permanent disability, after due assessment of the percentage of permanent disability by an approved Medical Board.

Salaries / Wages is paid to the person, who is injured while on duty (IOD Case), for the period of his absence from duty due to the said injury and extensive medical treatment facilities have also been provided either in Company's Hospital or any other referred Hospital during his injury period and beyond.

The details of compensation provided to families of deceased in such cases as per Workmen Compensation Act-1923, company-wise and state-wise are given in Annexure-III.

(c) : Company wise, state wise pending cases for compensation in CIL as per Workmen Compensation Act -1923 in case of fatalities are given below. However, no pending cases of compensation have reported in The Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) &

Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC).

Company Year
2008 2009 2010 2011 (Up to June)

ECL 1 (West Bengal 0 0 6 (West engal)
 due to dispute)
BCCL 0 0 0 0
CCL 0 0 0 1 (Jharkhand)
NCL 0 0 0 0
WCL 0 0 0 0
SECL 0 0 0 0
MCL 0 0 0 0
NEC 0 0 0 0
CIL 1 0 0 7

(d) : The company-wise, state wise details of funds allocated and utilized for safety arrangements in the coalmines during the above period as received from ISO of the subsidiary companies are given in Annexure-IV.

(e) & (f): The Mines Act 1952 and the Rules & Regulations framed there under prescribe safe work procedures in the mines. The Mine management is required to comply with these provisions to operate in a mine. 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 Court 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 actions are taken against persons held responsible for the accident and guidelines are also issued in order to prevent recurrence of such accident.

In addition to compliance with the requirements of mining safety laws, the Coal companies are taking the following measures to make mining work safer.

Structured multi-disciplinary Internal Safety Organization (ISO) for monitoring safety status of mines, both at subsidiary level and at CIL (Hq) level

Workers participation in safety management through various bodies at mine, area, subsidiary (HQ) and CIL level

Regular safety audits of mines by experienced engineers and implementation of the recommendations

Design of system of roof support in the underground mines by scientific support systems based on rock-mass-rating studies

Greater use roof bolts for support in workings in underground mines

Phased replacement of timber support by steel support

Reduced exposure of workers to mining hazards by mechanisation of loading operations in coal face by increasing use of SDLs & LHDs and by introduction of Powered Support Longwall faces where workmen work under skin-to-skin steel roof support

Regular monitoring of mine environment by hand held gadgets for detecting inflammable and noxious gases. Besides, eight computerised continuous Mine Environmental Tele-monitoring System are in operation and eight additional numbers of such systems are under installation

Preventive measures against the danger of inundation are prepared and implemented. Besides,

Check co-relation surveys have been undertaken to establish the barriers between waterlogged workings wherever danger of inundation exists.

Assessment of requirement of survey personnel & survey instruments has been made and corrective action is being taken wherever required.

Mine plans have been connected to the national grid

Thrust on training & retraining of workmen, supervisors to increase safety awareness