

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:267  
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009  
IDENTIFICATION OF UNSAFE ZONES  
Haque Shri Sk. Saidul

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

- (a) whether the Government has identified accident and subsidence prone areas in different coalfields in the country;
- (b) if so, the areas which have been identified as unsafe, pit-wise; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government to check accidents in such coalfields?

**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) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in parts (a) to (c) of the reply to Lok Sabha Starred question No. 267 for 22.7. 2009.

(a) to (c): The major problems of accident and subsidence prone areas have been identified in Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields in the State of Jharkhand and West Bengal. The problems have arisen due to 200 years of unscientific mining carried out by the erstwhile mine owners during pre nationalization period. These are being addressed by the Government and coal companies continuously. A High Level Committee was set up in December, 1996 under the Chairmanship of the then Secretary, Ministry of Coal with representative from other Departments, Coal Companies and the concerned state Governments to deal with problem in a comprehensive manner. Based on the recommendation of the Committee, Master Plan to deal with the problem of fire and subsidence control and related rehabilitation were formulated covering areas under BCCL and ECL in 1999 for implementation of the same in a phased manner. Subsequently these were updated in March, 2008 and submitted for the approval of the Government.

The scope of the Master Plan covers rehabilitation of people from the endangered area, dealing with fire and diversion of surface infrastructure. The Master Plan for BCCL envisages a total capital investment of Rs. 7112 crores in time frame of 10 years. 595 sites are to be rehabilitated, 98314 numbers of houses to be vacated and 79159 houses to be constructed at Rs. 4780.60 crores. Rs. 20 crore has also been provided for rail/road diversions.

The Master Plan for ECL envisages a total capital investment Rs. 2661.73 crores which include Rs. 2610.01 crores for rehabilitation schemes involving 33196 house at 139 locations, Rs. 40.28 crores for dealing with 7 fires and Rs. 7.72 crores for diversion of rail and road portions. The activities are envisaged to be completed in a time frame of 10 years.

Mines / pits in the following areas under the administrative control of BCCL and ECL have been identified with unstable areas:

Bharat Coking Coal Limited Eastern Coalfields Limited

(BCCL)

(ECL)

Bastacola Kunustoria

Kustore

Satgram

Lodna

Sripur

E. Jharia

Sodepur

Pootkee-Balihari Kajora

Kustore

Pandveswar

Katras

Kenda

Sijua

Salanpur

Kusunda

Bankola

Gobindpur

Barora

Block-II

W. Jharia

Begunia

Victoria West

BCCL mines in ECL Area.

Under the Plan Head of Environmental Measures & Subsidence Control (EMSC), Government has earlier sanctioned 9 such schemes in ECL for stabilization of unstable areas through Sand Stowing and 2 schemes one each in ECL and BCCL for rehabilitation. These schemes are on going.