

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1094  
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2011  
SAFETY IN COAL MINES  
Sainuji Shri Kowase Marotrao

**Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) the reasons for the frequent incidents of fire related accidents in coal mines in the country;
- (b) the amount of funds spent by the Government for safety in coal mines and factories located particularly in Maharashtra during the last three years and the current year; and
- (c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to bring improvement in fire safety system of coal mines and factories in the country particularly in Maharashtra State till date?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE)

(a): The reasons of frequent incidents of fire and related accidents in coal mines in the country are as follows :

- (i) Extensive and existence of old workings in all coal belts.
- (ii) Thick seam mining.
- (iii) Coal seams prone to spontaneous combustion.
- (iv) Low grade of coal.
- (v) Subsidence

(b): The primarily responsibility to comply with the various provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 and Mines Act, 1952 regarding safety lies with the occupier of the factory as well as owner of the mine. No such figure is available as far as factories are concerned. However, the available company-wise and state-wise details of funds allocated and utilized for safety arrangements in the coalmines during the last three years as received from ISO of the subsidiary companies are given in Annexure-I.

(c): So far as Mines are concerned, adequate legislative provisions have been made in the Mines Act, 1952 and in the provisions of regulations 116A; 117,118,118A & 119 under Coal Mines Regulations, 1957. In addition, various Circulars and guidelines had been issued by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) on the matter. Besides, for early detection of situations that could lead to an outbreak of fire or an explosion, as advised by DGMS continuous mine environmental tele-monitoring system (ETMS) have already been installed and are in operation in identified thirteen (13) underground mines in the country including three (3) coal mines in Maharashtra State.

So far as factories are concerned, the Government of India has enacted a comprehensive legislation i.e. the Factories Act, 1948, for taking care of the occupational safety, health & welfare issues of the workers employed in factories. The provisions contained under Section 7-A general duties of the occupier and Section 38: Precautions in case of fire and the Rules prescribed there under are sufficient to take care of the fire and safety issue as far as the manufacturing sector is concerned. The Government of Maharashtra under the Maharashtra Factories Rules, 1963 have sufficient provisions to take care of the issues related with the fire safety management and the details of the provisions relating to fire are covered under Rule-70; Fire Protection and Rule-71 B; Fire fighting apparatus and water supply.