

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3313

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2011

ACCIDENTS IN COAL MINES

Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Saha Shri Anup Kumar;Shankar Alias Kushal Tiwari Shri Bhisma

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and nature of accidents that took place in various coal mines in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, mine-wise, State-wise and year-wise;
- (b) the number of persons injured/died in these accidents during the said period, mine-wise, State-wise and year-wise;
- (c) whether any investigation was conducted to identify the causes of such accidents;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against the persons found guilty in this regard;
- (e) the amount of compensation and other relief paid to the injured/families of deceased persons in such cases alongwith the cases of compensation/employment pending, mine-wise, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (f) the concrete steps taken/being taken to avoid recurrence of such accidents and effectively implement the recommendations of the various Committees which inquired /are inquiring into such cases?

Answer

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

(a) to (d): The enclosed statement indicates the number of accidents, fatality/injury, persons found guilty and action taken against them during the last three years and current year. Under the provisions of Coal Mines Regulation 1957 under Mines Act 1952 duties and responsibilities of mine officials are clearly defined. Any accident involving serious / fatal injury is gone into depth by the concerned authorities of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) as well as Coal Companies concerned. Further, in exercising the power under provisions of Mines Act, 1952, the Courts of Inquiry are being conducted by Ministry of Labour & Employment to find out causes and circumstances fixing responsibility leading to major accident and action is initiated against the guilty as per the recommendations of the enquiry. The outcomes of these investigations indicate that 687 persons (CIL-575, NLC-13, SCCL-99) were found responsible and action was taken against 614 persons (CIL-513, NLC-13, SCCL-88) including Suspension, disciplinary actions, stoppage of increments, withholding of Promotion, warning letter and reversion to lower grade.

(e): The following compensation and other relief/benefits are being paid 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 Coal Mines Provident Fund(CMPF) Rule, encashment of EL and Payment of Pension as per CMPS, 1998 are paid in addition to the above compensations.

The compensation is being paid as per Workmen Compensation Act-1923 to the dependent of the deceased along with other benefits as mentioned above including employment offered to eligible kin of the deceased as early as possible. However, due to various reasons, there are some pending cases in the said period. Details are given in the Annexure – I.

(f): Apart from complying with the statutory provisions as laid down in the Mines Act, 1952 and the Coal Mine Regulations, 1957, Mine

Rule and bye laws framed there under, the following steps have been taken/being taken by the coal companies to avoid recurrence of such accident in coal mines:

1. CIL has established a structured multi-disciplinary Internal Safety Organization (ISO) to assist the line management at various levels in matters related to Safety.

2. Risk Assessment & Safety Management Plan: Risk Assessment has been completed in most of the mines and potential hazards associated in mining activities due to existing geo-mining conditions of the mine, method of mining being adopted for extraction of coal and from machineries have been identified. Time-bound action programmes to eliminate or to reduce or to avoid the identified risks for each mine has been chalked out along with review mechanism. It is an on-going continuous process.

3. Safety Audit of the mines at regular interval.

4. Steps for Disaster Prevention:

Inundation: Thrust on Safety Audit, Check Survey, Trials of Geo-physical Methods for detection of water bodies / proving parting etc.

Fire in mines:

Panel system working (so that in case of fire that can be isolated immediately),

Regular inspection

Strengthening of isolation stoppings

Inspections are made as per provisions of CMR-1957 and technical circular issued by DGMS time to time.

Impart training to all concerned.

Explosion: Early Gas detection through various modern gadgets (both sensors & catalytic base), Continuous type computer based on-line Gas monitoring for highly gassy and fiery mines and erection of explosion proof stoppings.

Emergency Action plan has been prepared and mock rehearsals are being carried out regularly.

5. For reduction of Roof/Side falls accident: Roof / Side fall accident is one of the major causes of fatal accident in underground mines. CIL has given priority for ensuring roof support management through

Stress on face mechanization to reduce exposure of workmen in active working zone.

Support Plan based on Rock-mass-rating (RMR) of over-lying roof strata.

Greater use of Roof Bolting for roof support.

Introduction of mechanized drilling by advanced roof bolting machines.

Introduction of resin capsules

Emphasis on development of indicators for detecting impending load on roof through R&D.

6. For reduction of accident at Opencast as well as on Surface of Mines: The following measures are being taken for reduction of fatalities in Opencast Mines & on Surface:

Mine-specific Traffic Rule.

Code of Practices for HEMM operators, Maintenance staffs, & others.

Standard Procedures related to safe operation of various mining operation.

Risk Assessment & Management

Training of Contractor's Workers involved in transporting operation.

Further, all necessary steps as required are being taken to implement the recommendations of various accident inquiry committees.