

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:476
ANSWERED ON:09.05.2012
COAL MINE CLOSURE PLANS
Jaiswal Dr. Sanjay

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of instances of shortcomings in the implementation of coal mines closure plans;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether such irregularities have been reported to be in connivance with the officials, including those in the Office of the Coal Controller;
- (d) if so, the details of such cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year alongwith the action taken against the erring officials; and
- (e) the steps contemplated/taken by the Government to ensure proper rehabilitation of mine before the expiry of the mining lease?

Answer

MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

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

Statement referred in parts (a) to (e) of the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No.476 for 09.05.2012

(a): No, Sir. No shortcoming is reported.

(b) to (d): Do not arise in view of answer given in part (a) of this question.

(e): As a financial security to ensure implementation of mine closure plan, Coal and Lignite companies are required to open an Escrow Account with any Scheduled Bank along with Coal Controller's Office (CCO) and to make deposits in such Escrow Account at the rate computed in Mine Closure Plan (MCP). As per Government guidelines, opening of Escrow A/c is mandatory for obtaining mine opening permission from CCO. When implementation of the final mine closure scheme is undertaken by the mine owner starting five years before the scheduled closure of mining operations, the Coal Controller may permit withdrawals (four years before final mine closure date) from the Escrow Account in proportion to the quantum of work carried out, as reimbursement. The withdrawn amount each year shall not exceed 20% of the total amount deposited in the account.

It is the responsibility of the Mine owners to ensure that the protective measures contained in the mine closure plan including reclamation and rehabilitation works have been carried out in accordance with the approved mine closure plan and final mine closure plan.

The owner is required to submit to the Coal Controller a yearly report before 1st July of every year setting forth the extent of protective and rehabilitative works carried out as envisaged in the approved mine closure plans.