

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6467

ANSWERED ON:16.05.2012

ACCIDENTS IN COAL MINES

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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether deaths and serious injuries in the coal mines in the country are much higher than those in other countries in the world and many of them are not reported;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor alongwith the action taken/being taken by the Government in the regard;
- (c) The details of technologies currently being used to ensure safety in coal mines; and
- (d) whether any reduction in accident/fatalities cases has been noticed after using these technologies and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As reported by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), the number of fatal and serious accidents during the last seven years has reduced from 96 to 76 and 1106 to 484 respectively. Similarly the fatality rates per thousand persons employed also reduce from 0.36 to 0.21. The fatality rate in coal mines in USA during the last five years is also varying from 0.38 to 0.13, which is comparable to India. The information of other countries is not available. The causes of accidents in coal mines are primarily due to:

Roof and side falls in underground;

Surface transport by dumpers, trucks and other Heavy Earth moving Machinery in opencast mines;

Explosives and Blasting;

Electricity;

Dust, gas and other combustible material;

All fatal accidents and serious accidents including dangerous occurrences such as explosives, electricity and gas & fires etc. are enquired by DGMS to find out the cause(s) and circumstances leading to such accidents/occurrences. Based on the findings of the enquiry, the following actions are taken depending upon the gravity of the situations and cases;

Immediate stoppage of dangerous operations;

Issue of prohibitory orders or improvement notices;

Withdrawal, Suspension or modification of permissions/approvals/relaxations etc.;

Suspension or cancellation of statutory certificates against the persons found responsible;

Punitive actions through respective mine management by way of suspension from duty, stoppage of increment, demotion or termination from employment depending upon the gravity of violations;

Prosecution in the court of law against the persons held responsible for the accidents/dangerous occurrences;

Issue of Technical Circulars, Guidelines and Instructions.

(c) & (d) : Board and Pillar mining using Side Discharge Loader (SDLs)/Load Haul Dumpers (LHDs) are mostly used in underground coal mines whereas shovel-Dumper combinations are used in opencast mines except few mines where continuous Miner-shuttle car and Longwall Mining are being practiced in underground and Surface Miners and Draglines in opencast mines. The following measures have been adopted to ensure safety in coal mines;

Manual loading is being gradually phased out from the underground coal mines;

Mechanized drilling and supporting by roof bolting with cement or resin capsules are being used;

Higher capacities loading machines and dumpers are being introduced to reduce traffic density in opencast workings; and

Mine environment monitoring with modern single and multi gas detectors are being done in underground mines.

With the introduction of mechanization, both in underground as well as in opencast mines, the personal exposure to risks have considerably reduced and in turn the fatality and serious injuries have reduced in coal mines.