

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:10

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2012

FIRE IN COALFIELD

Haque Shri Sk. Saidul;Roy Shri Mahendra Kumar

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of the perennial problems arising out of mine fire in the Jharia and Raniganj Coalfield;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any master plan has been prepared to douse the fire and for rapid resettlement of the people affected by the fire;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the progress of work in this regard so far;
- (e) the details of the funds sanctioned and utilized for rehabilitation of Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields;
- (f) whether any new township has been identified for rehabilitation and resettlement of the affected people: and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

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

Statement referred to in parts (a) to (g) of the reply to Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 10 for 8.8.2012

(a) : Yes Sir. The issues of fires and subsidence arising out of unscientific mining in Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields prior to nationalization of coal mines have been taken note of the Government.

(b), (c) & (d): Yes Sir. To address the problems of fire and subsidence in the mined out areas of Raniganj and Jharia, Government of India has approved a Master Plan in August, 2009.

The Master Plan encompasses measures to deal with fire problems, subsidence problems and diversion of surface infrastructure for implementation over a period of 10/12 years respectively with an estimated investment of Rs. 9773.84 crores (Raniganj Coalfields – Rs. 2661.73 crore; Jharia Coalfields – Rs. 7112.11 crore). Asansol Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA) in West Bengal and Jharia Rehabilitation and Development Authority (JRDA) in Jharkhand which have been identified as implementing agencies for rehabilitation of 33,196 families from Raniganj Coalfield (RCF) and 79,159 families from Jharia Coalfield (JCF) to safer areas. As per provisions of Master Plan, 595 sites in JCF and 139 sites in RCF have been identified as sites to be rehabilitated. Subsequently, two more sites in RCF have been added to the sites to be rehabilitated totalling to 141. Brief parameters of the Master Plan covering RCF and JCF are enclosed at Annexure.

In JCF areas, out of 595 sites demographic surveys in 324 sites have been completed. Similarly, in RCF areas, demographic surveys in 88 areas have been completed out of 141 sites. In Jharia Coalfields, 2352 houses have been completed for shifting people from endangered areas to Belgaria Township and 1132 families have already been shifted. BCCL has issued NoC with the approval of Ministry of Coal to transfer 849.68 acres of land in non-coal bearing area and 86.44 acres of land at Bhuli Township to JRDA. Government of West Bengal has approved the proposal of ADDA to acquire 2214 acres of land in two Townships for the proposed rehabilitation.

(e) : The approved outlay of the Master Plan is Rs. 9773.84 crores (Raniganj Coalfields – Rs. 2661.73 crore; Jharia Coalfields – Rs. 7112.11 crore). This outlay is proposed to be funded through Internal Resources of Coal India Limited to the extent of Rs. 350 crore per annum and the remaining from the collections of stowing excise duty under Coal Mines (Conservation & Development) Act, 1974. Till date an amount of Rs. 160.64 crore has been released to ADDA and Rs. 111 crore has been released to JRDA.

(f) & (g): As per the Master Plan, the affected families are to be accommodated in new Townships. In Jharia Coal field 86.44 acres of vacant land in Bhuli township and 849.68 acres of land in and around Belgoria township belonging to BCCL have been identified for developing new township by JRDA in addition to other areas. Further, two sites namely Bonjemari and Gourandi have been identified for setting up of new townships for rehabilitation and resettlement in Raniganj Coal fields. The total area required for the same is 2214 acres (896 Ha). ADDA had accorded Cabinet approval from Government of West Bengal for acquisition of land for this purpose.

