

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:176
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013
ACCIDENTS IN COAL MINES
Biswal Shri Hemanand

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of accidents that have occurred in various coal mines and workers injured/killed therein during each of the last three years, subsidiary /mine-wise including Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL);
- (b) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry into such accidents;
- (c) if so, the details and the findings thereof and the action taken against the erring officials, subsidiary-wise;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for relief, rehabilitation and welfare of the injured/deceased workers and their families, subsidiary-wise; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government to improve the safety of workers in coal mines?

Answer

MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

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

16th POSITION

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (e) in respect of Lok Sabha Question No. 176 for reply on 17.12.2013 asked by Shri Hemanand Biswal, MP regarding Accidents in Coal Mines.

(a): The no. of fatal accidents and fatalities in the last 3 years are as follows:

Year	No. of fatal accidents	No. of fatalities
2010	96	117
2011	64	116
2012	82	86
2013	70	73

(till May)

(b)&(c): All fatal accidents are enquired into by DGMS. After completion of enquiries, statutory/legal actions as deem fit including prosecution against the persons found responsible for the accidents are taken.

Details of the deceased and cause of accidents are being collected and shall be laid on the table of the house.

(d) The following compensation, relief etc. to the family of deceased who died in any mine accident arising out of and in course of employment.

1. Payment of compensation under Employee's Compensation Act - 2009
2. Employment is offered to the dependent of deceased departmental employee. In case there is no eligible person for employment, monetary compensation per month is paid to the family of the deceased in lieu of employment.
3. Rs. 5 Lakhs is paid to the dependent of deceased departmental employee as a special relief / ex-gratia, which is in addition to the amount payable under the Employee Compensation Act-1923.
4. Immediate payment of lump sum amount (generally Rs 20,000) is paid to the family of deceased for funeral, transport expenses etc.
5. Monetary benefits under Life Cover Scheme (LCS) of Rs 1,12,800/ w.e.f. 1.2.2012 as per NCWA-IX.
6. Ex-gratia amount of Rs 84,600/ in case of death or permanent total disablement resulting on account of accident arising out of and in course of employment w.e.f.1.2.2012 as per NCWA-IX.
7. Gratuity on the basis of the length of service (maximum ceiling Rs, 10, 00,000). Other benefits like P.F as per CMPF rule, Pension as per CMPS, 1998, Encashment of EL etc. In case of serious bodily injury/disablement the following compensation is being paid by

coal companies:

- I. An employee who is disabled due to accident arising out of and during the course of employment will get full basic wages and dearness allowance from the date of accident till employee is declared fit by the Company's Medical Officer. The disabled employee will have to remain under treatment of Company's Medical Officer or in a hospital approved /referred by the company to be entitled to the benefit.
- II. Compensation under the Workmen (Employee) Compensation Act-1923 is being paid to serious bodily-injured person involved with permanent disability, after due assessment of the percentage of permanent disability by an approved Medical Board.
- III. Ex-gratia amount of Rs 84,600/ (w.e.f 1.2.2012) as per NCWA-IX is paid to injured employee in case of permanent total disablement resulting on account of accident out of and in course of employment.

(e): The following corrective measures are taken by the Government to improve the safety of workers in coal mines:

- (i) To promote and propagate safety awareness in mines, National Safety Awards (Mines), National Conference on Safety in Mines is organized by DGMS. The recommendations of National Conference on Safety in Mines go a long way in enhancing safety of mine workers.
- (ii) Workers participation and sensitization in matters of safety are ensured through training in safety and by initiatives like celebration of safety week and safety campaigns, etc.
- (iii) Safety training programmes are organized among Managers and Supervisors for improving safety standards in mines.
- (iv) Risk Assessment Techniques are being introduced aimed at elimination of risks and to ensure safety of workmen.
- (v) Standard operating procedures are established to avoid unsafe practices in mines.
- (vi) A special safety awareness campaign has been launched to increase awareness of mine workers. i.e., 'Safety is My Responsibility' and steps have been taken to propagate the same.

In addition, Coal India Ltd (CIL) has also taken the following measures to improve standard of safety:

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: CIL has introduced risk assessment based Safety Management Plan in its mines. It is an on-going cyclical process.
3. Safety Audit of the mines is being conducted time to time.
4. Steps for Disaster Prevention:
 - # To check Inundation/ in rush water: Thrust on Risk assessment, Safety Audit, Check Survey, Trials of Geo-physical Methods for detection of water bodies / proving parting etc.
 - # To control spontaneous heating, fire & explosion in mine:
 - # More thrust on construction of sectionalization stopping
 - # Fresh Pressure Quantity Survey
 - # Use of Gas Chromatograph to analyze mine air sampling with better accuracy.
 - # Use of Local Methane Detector (LMD) for early and accurate detection of methane belowground for highly gassy mine.
 - # Risk assessment for identifying hazards related to spontaneous heating / fire potential.
5. For reduction of Roof/Side falls accident
 - # 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 the advanced roof bolting machines.
 - # Introduction of resin capsules particularly for watery seams.
 - # Emphasis on development of indicators for detecting impending load on roof through R&D.
 - # One laboratory has been commissioned at CMPDI, Ranchi for testing of physical and chemical properties of capsules.
6. For reduction of accident at Opencast as well as on Surface of Mine:
 - # Surface miners are being used in several opencast mines of CIL, which are safe and eco-friendly.
 - # Mine-specific Traffic Rules have been framed and circulated.
 - # Code of Practices for HEMM operators, Maintenance staffs & others.
 - # Standard Operating Procedure related to safe operation of various mining operations.
 - # Safety Management Plan based on Risk Assessment for every opencast have been prepared and implemented.
 - # Training of Contractor's Workers involved in transporting jobs
 - # Introduced Simulation based training for tipper & dumper operators / HEMM operator.
7. Special Safety Drives are conducted periodically to assess the level of compliance of safety norms in each mine. Annual safety fortnight is also conducted once every year for the same purpose.
8. Other safety measures initiated recently:
 - # Special training programme for safety officers and other key mining officials directly engaged in ensuring safety at mine by the SIMTARS, Australia accredited trainers.
 - # Several R&D projects on safety have also been initiated.
 - # High-wall mining has been started at Sharda Opencast Mine of SECL, which is safe mining system. # Spreading knowledge and coal mine safety related information through publication of quarterly safety bulletin from CIL.