

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2040

ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013

ADVERSE IMPACT OF COAL MINING ON ENVIRONMENT

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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any study about the adverse impact of coal mining on the social forestry, environment and health of the people living in an around the coal mining areas/belts;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Coal mining activities have some impact on social forestry, environment and health of people living in and around the local mining areas / belts. Before commencement/enhancement of production from coal mines, the impact on existing Social forestry and environment due to coal mining project are assessed by an Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study for each project and based on the same, Environmental Management Plans(EMP) are prepared. EMPs deal with measures to be undertaken to mitigate the impact of pollution, in order to reduce any adverse effect on health of people in & around mine, as per requirement of the project. The EMPs are submitted to Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) for obtaining Environmental Clearance (EC).

(c): The following corrective measures as per Environmental Management Plan (EMP's) of the concerned coal project approved by MOEF as well as the EC conditions given by MoEF are taken up:-

Air pollution control:

Air pollution is being controlled by regular spraying of water on haul & coal transportation roads by fixed as well as portable water sprinklers, Coal Handling Plants, all coal transfer points, coal & overburden (OB) faces, coal stockpiles etc. Other steps include fitting drills with dust collection systems/wet drilling, black topping/concreting of coal transportation roads. Efforts are being made for use of more & more belt conveyors, rail etc. for coal transportation and minimize road transportation to reduce pollution, as per feasibility. Massive trees plantation in and around mines also minimises the impact of air pollution on neighboring areas.

Water pollution control:

Mine water is being passed through sedimentation pond to arrest sediments and clean runoff is being used for beneficial use such as domestic, industrial & agricultural purpose, after treatment to extent possible, before discharging into natural water courses. Effluents from workshops is passed through Oil & Grease Traps and recycled/ reused for dust suppression and for cleaning purposes. In major Mines, Domestic effluents are being treated in Domestic Effluent Treatment Plants and in other mines in septic tanks.

Noise pollution control:

Noise pollution is controlled through the careful selection of equipment, proper maintenance and insulation. Persons exposed to high noise level are being provided with ear muffs. This is besides tree plantation between work places and residential areas.

Ecological damage control:

This is being controlled by plantation on physically & biologically reclaimed mined out areas & on the OB dump areas, plantation in & around mines, road sides, township / residential areas, available vacant spaces and implementation of conservation plan for protection of flora & fauna as per EC. This is apart from the payment made for compensatory afforestation to Forest departments.

In addition the environmental protection measures are taken in compliance to condition of consent to operate from respective State Pollution Control Boards. Regular monitoring of various environmental attributes are carried out as per Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to assess the efficacy of environmental protection measures taken and if required additional measures are taken to keep the various environmental attributes within the prescribed limits of the Regulatory Agencies.

Health protection

Coal India Limited has specific Schemes to protect the health of the people living in and around the coal mining areas/belts. As per the Corporate Social Responsibility Scheme of CIL there is a separate fund allocated @ Rs.5/- per tonne of coal production of last year and the said entire fund is year-marked for expenses towards well being of the people living in and around he coal mining areas/belts and in the state in which projects are situated. From the said fund a lumsun provision is made for project/schemes for the

benefit of Tribal Population in the CSR Policy of Coal India Limited. As per Policy out of total CSR Budget, 8% of the Budget is allocated separately and exclusively in the Annual Plan for undertaking welfare activities for the development of Scheduled Tribes Population.