

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2741

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2015

ACCIDENTS IN COAL MINES

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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of accidents occurred in various coal mines in the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise and Company wise;
- (b) the number of workers killed /injured and loss of property due to such accidents during the said period, company-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any investigation in this regard;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against the guilty officials;
- (e) whether all the coal mines of the country have the teams of doctors along with the ambulance facility for emergency, if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for providing relief, rehabilitation and welfare to the injured/killed workers and their families and to ensure the safety and security of workers along with the measures taken to check such accidents in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLEE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a)to(d): As per the information received from Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) the number of fatal accidents along with the fatalities/ seriously injured that took place in various coal mines in India during last three years and the current year State-wise/ Company-wise are given in the Annexure.

In case of fatal accidents, under the provision of the Mines Act, 1952; officers of Directorate-General of Mines Safety (DGMS) conduct enquiry to ascertain the cause of accidents. These enquiries also identified the person responsible for the accidents. In the light of enquiries, suitable actions under relevant provisions of Mines Act, 1952 are proposed against the reasons identified to be responsible for it. However, in case of serious accidents, generally the enquiries are conducted at the management level.

(e): As per the provisions of the Mines Rules, 1955; every mine management has to provide first-aid facilities to the workers and maintain a team of doctors along with the ambulance facilities in case of any emergency. To see that the mine management carries out the mining operations in accordance with the legal provisions, periodic inspections of mines and in case of non-compliances, officers of DGMS issues contraventions/violations notices and statutory instructions to the mine management.

Status of Doctors and Ambulance in different subsidiaries of COAL India Ltd (CIL) is as under :

Company	Doctors	Ambulance
ECL	228	135
BCCL	182	93
CCL	232	112
WCL	170	113
SECL	238	117
MCL	114	46
NCL	85	30
NEC	14	06
CMPDIL	02	02
CIL	03	01
TOTAL	1268	655

(f): The subsidiaries of CIL provide the following for relief, rehabilitation and welfare etc. to the family of the deceased who dies in any mine accident arising out of and in course of employment.

1. Payment of compensation under Employee's Compensation (Amendment) Act - 2009.

2. Employment is offered to the eligible kin of the deceased. In case there is no eligible person for employment, monetary compensation per month is paid to the family of the deceased.
3. Special Relief package of Rs. 5 Lakhs, which is in addition to the amount payable under Workmen Compensation Act-1923 for departmental employee.
4. Immediate lamsump payment for the funeral expenses to the family of deceased.
5. Monetary benefits under the Life Cover Scheme (LCS) of Rs 1,12,800 w.e.f 01.02.2012 as per NCWA-IX.
6. Ex-gratia amount of Rs 84,600 in case of the death or permanent total disablement resulting on account of accident arising out of and in course of employment w.e.f. 01.02.2012 as per NCWA-IX.
7. Gratuity on the basis of the length of service, P.F as per CMPF rule, encashment of EL and Payment of Pension as per CMPS, 1998 are paid in addition to the above compensations.

Safety measures taken to check such accidents in future:

Apart from compliance of the statutory provisions as laid down in the Mines Act, 1952, the Coal Mine Regulations- 1957 and Byelaws & Standing Order framed there under, CIL has taken several remedial measures to prevent fatalities and to improve the standard of safety. These are as under:

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: Risk assessment based Safety Management Plans have been prepared for all mines of CIL. It is an on-going process for continuous improvement of safety standards in mines.
3. Safety Audit of the mines is being conducted from 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 to improve ventilation standard of UG mines.
 - # 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 mines.
 - # Risk assessment for identifying hazards related to spontaneous heating / fire potential is being done.
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 specially for freshly exposed roof.
 - # Mechanization of roof drilling for roof bolting purpose by using roof bolting machines.
 - # Introduction of resin capsules particularly for watery seams and seams with low RMR.
 - # Use of different type indicators such as auto warning tell-tale, magnasonic extensometer, telescopic convergence recorder, remote convergence recorder, stress meter, load cell (mechanical), strain gauge load meter and tri-axial geophone (micro-seismic technology) etc. for monitoring strata movement.
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, circulated and implemented in every mine.
 - # Code of Practices for HEMM operators, Maintenance staffs & others.

Standard Operating Procedures 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 OB and Coal transportation.

Introduced Simulation based training for tipper & dumper operators / HEMM operator.

8. 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.

9. Other safety measures initiated recently:

Special training programme for safety officers and other key mining officials directly engaged in ensuring safety at mines by the SIMTARS, Australia accredited executives.

Several R&D projects on safety have also been initiated.

Spreading knowledge and coal mine safety related information through publication of quarterly safety bulletin from CIL.