

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6742
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2015
GROUND LEVELLING WORKS BY SECL
Mahto Dr. Banshilal

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) after Mining of coal in Chhattisgarh undertakes ground levelling work and planation of trees;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the areas where plantation work has been undertaken;
- (c) whether the Government has issued any guidelines to SECL in respect of compliance of environmental conservation rules;
- (d) if so, whether the SECL Management is following these rules and if no, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): Mine Closure Plans are part of Mining Plans and are mandatory under Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Further, approved Environment Management Plans (EMPs) also address the issue of Mine Closure and back filling of mined out areas. As informed by South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) all opencast mines of the company are being backfilled with overburden (OB) in de-coaled areas and plantation is being done on the reclaimed area.

Further, SECL has a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Chhattisgarh Rajya Van Vikas Nigam Limited, Raipur, for carrying out the work of plantation.

(b): Details of afforestation work carried out in SECL area from 1986 to 2014

S. No. Area State No of plants Afforestation area (in Ha)

1	Gevra	Chhattisgarh	3911183	1564.47
2	Dipka	Chhattisgarh	1483850	593.54
3	Kusmunda	Chhattisgarh	2334826	933.93
4	Korba	Chhattisgarh	2589222	1035.69
5	Chririmiri	Chhattisgarh	847012	338.80
6	Raigarh	Chhattisgarh	102500	41.00
7	Baikunthpur	Chhattisgarh	353875	141.55
8	Bhatgaon	Chhattisgarh	1047650	419.06
9	Bishrampur	Chhattisgarh	4213538	1685.42
10	Hasdeo	Chhattisgarh & Madhya Pradesh	1450810	580.32
11	Jamuna & Kotma	Madhya Pradesh	1899100	759.64
12	Sohagpur	Madhya Pradesh	3089277	1235.71
13	Johilla	Madhya Pradesh	1021000	408.40
			2,43,43,843	9737.53

(c) to (e): Guidelines issued by Ministry of Coal for Mine Closure are mandatory for all mine owners. Further mitigation plans under approved EMP have to be complied with by the Mine owners. Thus, SECL complies with these statutory requirements in operating the mines.