

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2019
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2014
UNSCIENTIFIC COAL MINING
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has noticed that a vast area in various parts of the country has become very dangerous due to unscientific coal mining;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of accidents occurred in various mines;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any precautionary measures to check the unscientific coal mining; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Mining operations of CIL and its subsidiaries are done scientifically by using appropriate technology and mining method after obtaining requisite working permissions from the Directorate General of Mine safety (DGMS). The inspectors of DGMS regularly visit the mines of CIL to check whether mining is done as per provisions of the statute and DGMS permissions. DGMS has special power to stop the mining activities if any major violation, which could endanger the life of any person working in the mine, is observed during the inspection.

However, some part of the Jharia coalfield (JCF) and Raniganj coalfield (RCF) within the leasehold of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) & Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) respectively are declared dangerous and susceptible to subsidence due to fire because of the unscientific mining carried out by the erstwhile private mine owners prior to nationalization of coal mines. In order to address these issues Government has approved Master Plan for Jharia and Raniganj areas in August 2009 for an estimated cost of Rs. 9773.84 core (Rs. 7112.11 crore for Jharia Coal field, and Rs. 2661.73 crore for Raniganj Coalfields). The Scope of the Master Plan covers dealing with fires, rehabilitation of affected persons and planning & Survey for diversion of railway lines, roads and IOC pipe lines from the affected areas. The Master Plan is already under implementation.

The number of fatal accidents, fatalities, serious accidents & serious injuries in CIL for the last 5 years are given below:

Sl.No.	Parameters	2010	2011	2012	2013	upto Oct. 2014
1	Fatal accidents	75	50	57	54	38
2	Fatalities	94	52	60	58	40
3	Serious accidents	292	242	212	175	156
4	Serious injuries	308	256	219	178	158

However these accidents have occurred because of various reasons other than the scientific mining.

(c) & (d): CIL and its subsidiaries have taken the following precautionary measures to ensure check on unscientific mining. These are as under:

Mining project is properly planned by the experts before commencing mining.

All mining operations are being done strictly as per provisions of the Mines Act, 1952, the Mines Rules -1955, the Coal Mines Regulations-1957 and several bye-laws framed thereunder.

Statutory permissions from DGMS are obtained before commencement of mining activities and all operations are done strictly as per the DGMS permission.

CIL and its subsidiaries have established structured multi-disciplinary Internal Safety Organization (ISO) to assist the line management at various levels in matters related to Safety and to ensure that all operations are carried out scientifically.

Preparation of Risk Assessment based Safety Management Plan: Risk assessment based Safety Management Plans have been prepared for all mines of CIL where all hazards related to mining Operations are identified scientifically and appropriate control measures are recommended and implemented. It is an on-going process for continuous improvement of safety standards in mines.

Safety Audit of the mines is being conducted from time to time.

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.