

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

LOK SABHA
Unstarred Question No. 1516
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2018

Fire Accidents in Coal Mines

**1516. Shrimati Supriya Sule;
Shri Dhananjay Mahadik;
Shri Satav Rajeev;
Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit;
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Shri Mohite Patil Vijaysinh Shankarrao:**

Will the **MINISTER OF COAL** be pleased to state:

- a. the number of fire accidents occurred in various coal mines in the country particularly Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu along with the loss of life and property caused during each of the last five years, company and State-wise;
- b. the reasons for repeated fire accidents in the coal mines;
- c. whether the Government has considered any investigation in this regard and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons, company-wise till date;
- d. the funds allocated and spent for ensuring the safety and security of workers in these coal mines during the said period, company-wise along with the funds released to compensate the victim of accidents during the last three years, company-wise;
- e. the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such accidents in future; and
- f. the other steps taken by the Government for improvement in the fire-resistance system of coal mines and factories particularly of Maharashtra State?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

Reply (a) : The details of fire accidents occurred in various coal mines in the country particularly in Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu along with loss of life and property caused during each of last five years (2013 to 2017), company wise and state wise are given in Annexure – I.

Reply (b): The main reason for fire accidents in coal mines is spontaneous heating.

Reply (c): Investigation done by various agencies and actions taken against the responsible persons, company-wise are as under:

BCCL: Investigation / enquiry was completed and disciplinary action have been taken against the concerned Manager, Overman and Mining Sirdar.

NCL: The enquiry has been conducted by Internal Safety Organization (ISO) and DGMS officials. The details are provided below:

SN	Particulars	Findings	Recommendations	Action taken against persons held responsible
1	Fatal accident of Sri Md. Firoz Ansari dated 02.06.2016	Wrong practice of using wiper motor pump with battery of tipper	(1) Framing and implementation of SOP of all activities of outsourcing works. (2) Conducting Safety talks for increasing awareness of safe practices among workmen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demotion to lower post – 2 persons • Censure – 1 person
2.	Fatal accident of Sri Lalman Gupta , Dated 05.05.2018	Bursting of oxygen cylinder due to run over of dozer on the cylinder.	(1) Proper housekeeping. (2) Work to be carried out under constant supervision of a competent supervisor. (3) Proper communication of work to the workmen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one increment stopped – 3 persons • Memo issued – 1 person

WCL: Inquiry was conducted on the three fire incidences occurred. Two officers/executives were warned to be more careful while discharging duty.

SECL: DGMS enquired into the cases of incidence independently to assess the cause thereof and suggested precautionary measures to control the heating. The affected panel was immediately isolated by making isolation stoppings to control fire under the guidance of DGMS.

MCL:

Year	Name of Mines	Investigations & Action Taken
2015-16	Talcher Colliery	Investigation made by ISO, MCL and DGMS. No disciplinary action.
	Orient Mine No. 3	Investigation made by ISO, MCL and DGMS. Warning Order issued against 6 persons.
2017-18	Nandira Colliery	Investigation made by ISO, MCL and DGMS. Warning Order issued against 4 persons.

Reply (d) Company-wise details are as under:

Eastern Coalfield Ltd. (ECL) : The details of fund allocated and expenditure are given bellow :
(Rs lakh)

Year	Capital		Revenue	
	Fund Allocated	Expenditure	Fund Allocated	Expenditure
2015-16	6628.00	4450.00	15983.00	13636.00
2016-17	6479.00	2826.30	15826.00	10220.88
2017-18	6605.00	3392.00	16000.00	13700.00

Central Coalfield Ltd. (CCL): The details of fund allocated and expenditure are given bellow:

(Rs lakh)

Year	Capital		Revenue	
	Fund allocated	Expenditure	Fund allocated	Expenditure
2015-16	656.74	500.06	1778.38	1778.00
2016-17	600.00	264.45	1650.00	1659.49
2017-18	1000.00	517.37	1700.00	1623.80

Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL): The funds spent for ensuring safety and security of workers in BCCL is as under:

Year	Spent (Rs in Crore)
2015-16	24.58
2016-17	22.70
2017-18	31.41

- Compensation of Rs 639200/- was paid to the next of kin of victim of Rajapur OC accident.

Northern Coalfield Ltd. (NCL): The funds allocated and spend on Safety in last three year is given below:

Capital Budget (Rs. In lakh)

2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
Budget	Utilization	Budget	Utilization	Budget	Utilization
1198	186	632	236	638	132

Revenue Budget (Rs. In lakh)

2015-16		2016-17		2017-18	
Budget	Utilization	Budget	Utilization	Budget	Utilization
6000	5250.82	6000	5391.84	6300	6170.29

Compensation details:

S.No.	Project	Date of Accident	Name of Deceased	Compensation provided as per statute
1	Khadia (UP)	02.06.2016	Firoz Ansari, Contractor worker	Rs. 8,67,640/-
2	Dudhichua (UP)	5.5.2018	Sri Lalman Gupta, Fitter (Cat-VI)	Rs. 4,98,800 /-

Western Coalfield Ltd. (WCL): Adequate capital and revenue funds are allotted for the coal mines for ensuring the safety of the workers. The details are as below.

(in Rs. lakh)

Year	Capital fund allotted	Capital expenditure	Revenue fund allotted	Revenue expenditure
2015-16	1200.00	1110.26	9000.00	10575.91
2016-17	800.00	242.11	9000.00	9245.67
2017-18	500.00	232.50	8500.00	8927.20
2018-19, upto Oct.'18	400.00	198.11	8000.00	4433.14

South Eastern Coalfield Ltd. (SECL): The fund allocated and spent under capital & revenue head for ensuring safety and security of workers in SECL during the last three years and current year are given below:

(Rs. Lakh)

YEAR	Capital		Revenue	
	Fund allocated	Expenditure	Fund allocated	Expenditure
2015-16	1346.60	350.00	18000.00	17609.00
2016-17	4227.00	3265.072	16500.00	16006.00
2017-18	2751.00	1234.92	17000.00	16500.00
2018-19	900.00	223.00 (till Nov.'18)	17200.00	14300.00 (till Nov.'18)

Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd. (MCL):

(Rs. Lakh)

YEAR	Capital		Revenue	
	Fund allocated	Expenditure	Fund allocated	Expenditure
2015-16	715.32	679.55	4900.00	4900.00
2016-17	941.00	870.00	5145.00	5145.00
2017-18	748.98	715.26	5700.00	5700.00

Singareni Colliery company Ltd. (SCCL):

(Rs. Lakh)

Year	Capital A/c.		Revenue A/c.	
	Budget	Actual Expenditure	Budget	Actual Expenditure
2015-16	1111	1214	71871	72910
2016-17	1069	145	71872	77743
2017-18	1365	1133	79670	81870
2018-19 (upto Oct. 2018)	961	266	55202	49914

Reply (e): The following steps are taken to check the recurrence of such incidents in future:

- Apparatus for detecting of fire/symptom of fire are provided in all underground mines.

- Risk assessment based Safety Management Plans (SMPs) prepared and implemented.
- Preparation and implementation of Principal Hazards Management Plans (PHMPs) along with Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP).
- Site-specific Risk Assessment based Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) formulated and complied.
- Conducting safety audit time to time to assess safety status of mine including precautionary measures taken for mine fire and spontaneous heating.
- Emergency Action Plan of each mine has been prepared and implemented, it is being reviewed from time to time. Mock Rehearsals are being conducted for examining the preparedness / efficacy of Mine-wise Emergency Action Plan.

Reply (f): Based on the experiences, the developmental initiatives undertaken by DGMS are amendment of safety laws, issue of guidelines for safer operations in identified thrust areas through circulars and issue of technical instructions to DGMS officers for their guidance.

Annexure-I**Details of accidents in coal mines due to Fire during the years 2013-2017**

Company	Date of fire accident / incidence	Mine	State	Type of fire	Loss of life & properties
ECL	No fire accident.				
BCCL	19.08.2015	Rajapur OCP	Jharkhand	One shovel operator got burn i njury while handling fiery coal seam	1 fatality
CCL	No fire accident.				
NCL	02.06.2016	Khadia OCP	UP	Burn injury by diesel fumes – Equipment fire	1 fatality
	05.05.2018	Dudhichua OCP	MP	Bursting of O ₂ cylinder	1 fatality
WCL	13/09/2014	DRC 6, 7 & 8	Maharashtra	UG Mine fire	No fatality involved. Only negligible loss of properties.
	12/07/2015	Silewara	Maharashtra	UG Mine Fire	
	16/07/2015	Ballarpur 3&4 pits	Maharashtra	UG Mine Fire	
SECL	No fire accident. However, there are two cases of spontaneous heating in two UG mines as coal by nature itself is susceptible to spontaneous heating due to its intrinsic nature. One mine is in Chhattisgarh in the year 2013 and other in MP in 2015. All the cases were effectively dealt.				
MCL	No fire accident. However, there are three cases of spontaneous heating in three different UG mines in Odisha State. Two cases were in 2015-16 and one case was in 2017-18. All the cases were effectively dealt.				
SCCL	No fire accident.				