

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1735
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.2.2019**

Coal Mine Workers

1735. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the number of coal mine workers working in different State owned coal mines across the country, State/ UT-wise;
- (b) the details of the number of facilities including safety facilities being provided to these workers across the country;
- (c) whether the Government has received any complaints at present in some of the States in connection with violation of safety guidelines in their mines and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise and the reasons therefor;
- (d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to make these coal mines/all coal mines as zero accidental; and
- (e) whether the Government has issued guidelines to States to provide training to workers for safety during the work time and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF FINANCE, RAILWAYS AND COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c): Information is being collected.

(d): The matters relating to safety, health and welfare of persons employed in the mines are dealt with under the Mines Act, 1952, Rules and Regulations made there under. Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) administers the Mines Act, 1952 for ensuring safety in the mines of the country. The owner, agent, manager and other statutory persons appointed in the mines are required to comply with the provisions of the statute. Chief Inspector of Mines and Inspectors of Mines make inspections and enquire, whenever it is required, to ascertain whether provisions of the Mines Act 1952 and of the regulations, rules and bye-laws and of any order made there under are observed in a mine.

In order to prevent re-occurrence of accidents, DGMS issues various circulars specifying therein the preventive measures to be taken for ensuring safety in mines. To ensure that the mineworkers are provided with adequate safety measures while working in the mines, Officers of DGMS undertake inspections of mines and take following measures:

- Pointing out contraventions
- Withdrawal of permission
- Issue of improvement notices

- Prohibition of employment
- Informal stoppages
- Prosecution in the court of law

To prevent accidents in the mines the following steps are also taken/being taken by the Government:

- (i) To promote and propagate safety awareness in mines, National Safety Awards (Mines), National Conference on Safety in Mines are organized by DGMS. The recommendations of National Conference on Safety in Mines go a long way in enhancing safety of mine workers.
- (ii) Workers participation and sensitization in matters of safety are ensured through training in safety and by initiatives like celebration of safety week and safety campaigns, etc.
- (iii) Safety training programmes are organized among Managers and Supervisors for improving safety standards in mines.
- (iv) Introduction of Risk Assessment Techniques and preparation of safety management plan aimed at elimination of risks and to ensure safety of workmen.
- (v) Introduction of standard operating procedures to avoid unsafe practices in mines.
- (vi) Time to time, DGMS Circulars are issued as guidelines for safe operations in identified thrust areas.

(e): Training to the persons employed in mines is provided as per the provisions of The Mines Vocational Training Rules, 1966 (a subordinate legislation of The Mines Act, 1952). The salient points of The Mines Vocational Training Rules, 1966 are:

- (i) Provision for training centre as per the provisions of the Rule 18 of The Mines Vocational Training Rules, 1966.
- (ii) Provisions for Training officer as per Rule 20 of The Mines Vocational Training Rules, 1966.
- (iii) Provision of trainer as per Rule 22 of The Mines Vocational Training Rules, 1966.
- (iv) Provision of initial and refresher training to workmen as per Rule 6 and 8 of The Mines Vocational Training Rules, 1966
