GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2918
TO BE ANSWERED ON 15/12/2021

First Mile Connectivity Project

2918. SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether an innovative Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) at Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd (MCL) was inaugurated in the recent past;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the salient features of the said system;
(c) whether first mile connectivity project-Lajkura SILO has also been inaugurated;
(d) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which dispatch capacity of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. will be improved from this project;
(e) whether some additional employment opportunity will also be increased from the operation of first mile connectivity project; and
(f) if so, the details in this regard?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. An internet-based platform called 'VIHANGAM' integrated with a Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS) at Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) was inaugurated on 1st September 2021. The salient features of the said system are as under-

(i)   The system consists of a Ground Control Station (GCS), an RPAS, internet lease line of 40 Mbps and VIHANGAM portal. It has been deployed at two opencast mines of MCL namely Bhubaneswari and Lingaraj initially on trial basis.

(ii)   The system enables real-time transmission of aerial video of mining activities from mines to internet platform which can be accessed through VIHANGAM portal by authorized personnel only having ID and password.

(c) & (d): The First Mile Connectivity project - Lajkura RLS has been awarded to L&T Limited with Operation and Maintenance for 5 years for a total value of ₹285.05 crore. The Foundation stone for Lajkura RLS - 15 Mty was laid on 01.09.2021. The anticipated date of commissioning of the RLS is March 2023.

(e) & (f): The Operation and Maintenance of Lajkura RLS will be done by L&T for a period of 05 years by engaging necessary manpower.

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