

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 319
TO BE ANSWERED ON 6.2.2017**

Action taken in Lalmatia coal mine accident

319. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:
SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI SANJIV KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a coal mine had caved in at Lalmatia mines in Jharkhand on December 29, 2016 wherein 23 workers were buried, if so, the details thereof along with the number of casualties;
- (b) whether there has been laxity on the part of mine management, which resulted in country's worse mine disasters;
- (c) whether any investigation has been conducted and if so, the details and action taken thereon and status of rescue operations;
- (d) the details of compensation paid to dependents of deceased; and
- (e) the number of employees of ECL and outsourcing agency and locals who were killed/missing?

ANSWER

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

- (a): Coal mine accident due to unprecedented movement of solid bench had occurred at Rajmahal Opencast Project on 29.12.2016 where 23 workmen were reported to be buried under the Overburden (OB)/Slide out of which till now 18 bodies could be recovered.
- (b). Prompt action was taken by the mine management with co-operation from District authorities, Local Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) members, teams of National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) and rescue teams of the coal company. Rescue and recovery work was started at the shortest possible time under the guidance of senior management of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) and 18 dead bodies could be recovered within three days' time. Further recovery operations were to be suspended due to movement in strata. A detailed plan has been drawn to remove the top overburden through benching. This plan has been put up to experts for vetting. After vetting by experts, approval of Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS) will be taken for resuming the recovery operations.

(c): On the basis of enquiry conducted by Internal Safety Organisation of ECL, Manager of Rajmahal Opencast Project has been suspended and charge sheet has been issued to two other Officers namely Assistant Manager of the shift and general shift of the project. Further, enquiry is being conducted by DGMS and a high power committee has also been constituted by Coal India Limited (CIL) to enquire into the accident and actions will be taken against the persons responsible based on the findings of the enquiry.

(d): Workmen compensation with amount ranging from Rs. 07.5 Lakhs to Rs. 08.96 Lakhs has been deposited with Employee Compensation Commissioner Cum Presiding Officer, Labour court Deogarh. In addition to this amount, ECL will pay a compensation of Rs.5 Lakhs each to the next of the kin of the deceased. Further Jharkhand Government has also declared a compensation of Rs. 2 Lakhs each to the next of the kin of the deceased.

(e): 23 employees of M/S Maha Laxmi Infra Pvt. Ltd., who were reportedly engaged in the workings at the time of incident, were reported to be trapped in the overburden slide. No employee of ECL was involved in the accident.
