

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 148  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.7.2017**

**Disaster at Rajmahal open cast mine**

**148. SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:** Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the disaster at Rajmahal open cast mine in Jharkhand had led to many fatalities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that safety concerns raised by activists and locals were rubbished after authorities;
- (d) whether complaints pointing to violation of safety norms which forwarded to the Director General of Mines Safety by the Prime Minister's Office was termed incorrect/false in December, 2015; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government against the officials who neglected the security aspects of the people working in mines?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): An accident occurred in Rajmahal Open Cast mine on 29.12.2016 involving 23 fatalities. Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) has informed that a Committee comprising of five officers of the Directorate to inquire into the cause of the accident was constituted and the enquiry established that it was a case of failure of overburden and coal benches. Prosecution has been launched by DGMS against the persons found responsible in this report in CJM, Godda Court.

(c): No such record is available at Coal India Ltd. DGMS informed that any complaint related to mine safety, received in the office of DGMS, is enquired into and action as provided under the law is taken.

(d)&(e): DGMS received a complaint through Public Grievance portal, which was on general violation of safety norms. After being enquired by DGMS, management of Rajmahal OCP was asked for compliance of the contraventions observed during the course of inspection/enquiry.

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