

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
Unstarred Question No. 651
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2019

Fire accidents in coal mines

651. SHRI SYED NASIR HUSSAIN:

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

- (a) the total number of fire accidents occurred in various coal mines in the country along with loss of life and property caused during each of last five years, company and State-wise; and the reason for repeated fire accidents in the coal mines.
- (b) whether any investigation has been carried out in this regard and if so, details of along with the action taken by Government; and
- (c) the total funds allocated and spent for ensuring the safety and security of workers in these coal mines during the said period, company-wise, along with funds released to compensate the victims of accidents?

ANSWER

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

Reply (a): The details of fire accidents occurred in various coal mines in the country 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**. The main reason for fire accidents in coal mines is spontaneous heating.

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

Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL): Investigation / enquiry was completed and disciplinary action have been taken against the concerned Manager, Overman and Mining Sirdar.

Northern Coalfield Limited (NCL): The enquiry has been conducted by Internal Safety Organization (ISO) and Directorate General of Mines Safety (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 |

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

South Eastern Coalfield Limited (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.

Mahanadi Coalfield Limited (MCL):

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

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

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

(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 below:

(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 |

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 |

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 |

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 injury 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. | | | | |