

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.655
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.02.2019

Underground fires in coal fields

655. SHRI RAKESH SINHA:

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

- the number of new coal deposits discovered in the country from the year 2016 to 2018;
- the arrangements being made to rehabilitate the residents of those coalfields (for example, Jhariya) which are affected by underground fires; and
- the efforts being made to douse the fire?

ANSWER

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

- (a) : The new coal deposits discovered through Promotional (Regional) Exploration and geological report prepared during 2016 to 2018 are as follows.

Figures in Million Tonnes

Sl.No.	Block	Coalfield	State	Resource Indicated /Inferred
2016-17				
1	Sindhrawal	Singraulli	MP	497.33
2	Gaurangpur Bankati	Raniganj	WB	69.12
3	Northern Khar	Gangi Desai	Nagaland	124.33
4	Maika	Sohagpur	MP	62.18
5	Bihar	Sohagpur	MP	110.66
6	Harri	Sohagpur	MP	77.02
7	Androka	Bishrampur	Chattisgarh	56.841
8	Dharampur	Bishrampur	Chattisgarh	44.96
9	Marwas	Singraulli	MP	No appreciable resources
2017-18				
1	Bandhbahal	IB Valley	Odisha	808.63
2	Kantikoliya	Talcher	Odisha	45.73
3	Keli K	Godavari Valley	Telangana	39.4
	Total			1936.20

- (b) In order to rehabilitate the residents of coalfields (Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields) which are affected by underground fire, a Master Plan was approved by Govt. of India in August 2009. As per Master Plan, Jharia Rehabilitation and Development Authority (JRDA) under Government of Jharkhand have been assigned the work of rehabilitation of persons in Jharia Coalfields. Similarly Asansol Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA) under Government of West Bengal is looking after the work of rehabilitation in Raniganj Coalfields. Construction of houses and shifting are done as per the provisions of Master Plan.

(c): As per the initial survey, while preparation of Master Plan, an area of 25.69 sq. km was estimated as fire affected area was estimated in Jharia Coalfield. BCCL adopted a Strategic Plan in which it was decided to liquidate the fires by digging out through excavation method. Accordingly, excavation methods were resorted to by deploying HEMM in various mines of BCCL. The fire area at present has reduced to 3.28 sq km (NRSC study of 2018). In Raniganj Coalfield, fire affected area was estimated to be 8.62 sq. km in approved Master Plan. All the identified fire sites were doused.
