

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1307  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.03.2023**

**Coal in Jharkhand**

**1307 Shri Rakesh Sinha:**

**Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:**

- (a) the total estimated coal stock in Jharkhand;
- (b) the amount of coal which has been burnt due to underground fire in many parts of the coal belts in the State;
- (c) the measures taken by Government to prevent the spread of underground fire in the coal belt like Jharia; and
- (d) the reasons for the underground fire in the coal belt?

**ANSWER**

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

**(a):** As on 01.03.2023 CIL mines have coal stock of around 6.989 million tons in the State of Jharkhand.

**(b):** About 37 MT of coking coal has been destroyed due to fires in Jharia Coalfield in leasehold area of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL).

**(c):** Following measures are taken by coal companies to prevent the spread of underground fire viz, sub-panel method of working considering incubation period, providing adequate ventilation in mines, sectionalization of all old workings, stone dusting in mines, spraying fire-retardant sealants in mines, continuous monitoring of environmental conditions in the mines, regular cleaning of fallen coals, keeping arrangement of water spraying in the mines to deal with fire, fire-fighting extinguishers are kept available in strategic points in the mine etc.

**(d):** The main reason of fire in underground coal mines is spontaneous heating/combustion of coal which is the process of self-heating of coal when exposed to air, leakage of air in sealed off area due to surface cracks, leakage of air from stoppings, sluggish ventilation etc.

If the rate of dissipation of heat is relatively slow as compared to the progress of heat by oxidation, there is a gradual build-up of heat and coal bed temperature reaches to the ignition point of coal thereby causing fire.

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