

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2922
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2023

Conditions of coal mines and coal miners' safety in West Bengal

2922 Smt. Shanta Chhetri:

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

- (a) the number of coal mines in West Bengal, District-wise;
(b) total production of coal in the last three years and revenue generated from West Bengal;
(c) the conditions of mines and steps taken for safety of coal miners; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a): As per information received from Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), District-wise list of coal mines in West Bengal are as under:

State	District	Number of Mines
West Bengal	Bankura	3
	Purulia	2
	Pashim Bardhamann	68
	Birbhum	2

(b): The production of coal and Royalty, DMF and NMET paid by coal companies in West Bengal during last three years has been furnished below:

Year	Production from West Bengal (in Million Tonnes)	Royalty paid to the state of West Bengal by coal companies (in crores)	DMF paid by coal companies (in crores)	NMET paid by coal companies (in crores)
2019-20	33.614	18.96	5.49	0.38
2020-21	30.463	12.64	4.78	0.44
2021-22	29.069	16.23*	4.61*	0.32*

*PROVISIONAL

(c) & (d): Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) has taken the following steps to improve the conditions for safety and health of coal miners -

(I) Workmen are allowed to work in the working places of coal mines which have been inspected by the Mining Sirdar, Overmen and Assistant manager and Manager of the respective mines and declared to be Safe.

(III) Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) conduct sample inspection of mines to assess the unsafe conditions and to check the status of compliance of statutory provisions in the mines for the safety of coal miners.

(III) Enquiry into the accident and dangerous occurrences is done to ascertain the cause and circumstances that led to the accident and suggests suitable remedial measures to the mine management. Inspection of mines is done, pointing out contraventions, temporary stoppages of a mine or part thereof; serving the Improvement Notices & Prohibitory Orders to rectify the contraventions of statute observed during the course of inspections.

(IV) Developmental measures such as standard setting, amendments in safety laws, issue of circulars on safety and health issues, adopting various recommendations of the ILO Conventions etc.

(V) Promotional measures such as holding National Conferences on Safety in mines, conducting National Safety Awards (Mines), imparting Vocational Training and Other Training, Observance of Safety Weeks and Safety Campaigns, Holding Rescue Competition, promoting participation of worker in safety management, awareness and information dissemination .

(VI) Technical measures such as "Introduction of Risk Assessment Techniques and preparation of Safety Management Plan" aimed at mitigation of risks and to ensure safety of workmen, introduction of standard operating procedures to avoid unsafe practices in mines, issuing DGMS Circulars as guidelines for safe operations in identified thrust areas from time to time.
