

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1642**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2023**

**Challenges faced in mining of coal**

**1642. Smt. Seema Dwivedi:**

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

- (a) the manner in which Government is mitigating the challenges faced in coal mining;
- (b) whether Government is taking steps to promote sustainable mining practices; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to improve the safety of coal mines in the country?

**ANSWER**

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

(a): Coal PSUs are in constant endeavour to mitigate the challenges faced in the coal mining. In underground mines, Mass Production Technologies (MPT), mainly with Continuous Miners (CMs) and Highwalls (HW) mines are adopted. In opencast mines, State-of-the-Art technologies in its high capacity excavators, dumpers, surface miners, etc. are adopted. Regular upgradation & adoption of new technology, environment friendly technology in loading & transport, ERP in data & office management, etc. has been adopted. Digital transformation technology has also been introduced on pilot scale in a few mega mines. The challenges being faced by the coal projects in coal mining are as follows:

- (1) Delay in physical possession of tenancy land due to issues like land records and non-cooperation from land owners.
- (2) R&R and related law & order problems

The following steps are taken to overcome and resolve such challenges:

- i) Issues of land authentication and related law & order issues are persistently pursued with the respective State Governments.
  - ii) The Ministry of Coal also follows up issues affecting implementation of projects with other Ministries & with State Govt. specially for facilitating Forestry Clearances and physical possession of land.
- (b): Government is committed to promote sustainable development by protecting the environment through integrated project planning & design, prevention/ mitigation of pollution, conservation of natural resources, restoration of ecology & biodiversity, recycling/ proper disposal of wastes, addressing climate change and inclusive growth.

(c): Coal Mines are governed by the Mines Act, 1952 and rules and regulations framed thereunder. Mines Act, 1952 is administered by DGMS by way of development of suitable legislations, rules, regulations, standard and guidelines, inspections, investigation of accidents, awareness activities, formulating risk management plans. Apart from compliance of the statutory provisions made under the Mines Act, 1952, the Mines Rules- 1955, the Coal Mine Regulations- 2017 and Byelaws & Standing Order framed there under, the following steps are being taken to reduce occurrence of such accidents in mines -

1. Preparation and implementation of Site-Specific Risk Assessment based Safety Management Plans (SMPs).
2. Preparation and implementation of Principal Hazards Management Plans (PHMPs).
3. Formulation and compliance of Site-specific Risk Assessment based Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
4. Conducting Safety Audit of mines through multi-disciplinary Safety Audit teams.
5. Adoption of the state-of-the art mechanism for Strata Management.
6. Monitoring of mine environment.
7. Specific Safety measures for OC mines:
8. Training on Mine Safety
9. Mine Safety Inspection

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