

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL

RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2270  
ANSWERED ON 16.12.2024

**Coal Mine Overburden (OB) dumps**

**2270. Smt. Phulo Devi Netam:**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of problems arising out of instability of Coal Mines Overburden (OB) dumps of the country, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether said OB dumps are a major problem in Coal Mines of Chhattisgarh;
- (c) whether Government proposed to rehabilitate the displaced people by flattening, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government proposes to take any initiative in this regard, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, manner in which the people living adjacent to the mining areas are likely to find solution to serious problems of OB dumps, details thereof?

**ANSWER**  
**MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES**  
**(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

**(a):** The Ministry of Coal is aware of the problems arising out of instability of coal mines overburden (OB) dumps of the country. The major problem associated with the instability of overburden dumps, if any, is slide of dump material due to failure of OB dump. However, there are various statutory provisions made under Regulation no.106 & 108 of Coal Mines Regulation (CMR)-2017 to prevent such failure of slopes of OB/waste dumps.

**(b):** The OB dumps are not a major problem in Coal Mines of Chhattisgarh.

**(c):** Presently, there is no proposal to rehabilitate the displaced people by flattening the said land.

**(d) and (e):** To address the problem of OB dumps, provisions have been made in the Regulation 106 of the Coal Mines regulations 2017 (CMR, 2017), requiring scientific study before starting an opencast coal mine for method of working, ultimate pit slope, dump slope and monitoring of dump stability. Adequate provisions have also been made under Regulation 108 of CMR 2017 for spoil banks & dumps for the stability. In addition to this, guidelines for scientific study

and systematic monitoring of slopes in opencast coal mines have been issued vide DGMS (Tech) Circular No. 03 & 02 of 2020 respectively. Provisions have been made in the Regulation 104 of the CMR 2017 regarding Safety Management Plan based on the risk assessment in coal mines which also includes proper control measures and SOPs to be followed for monitoring of dump stability.

Moreover, the overburden dumps are inspected by DGMS during inspection of the mines for overburden dump geometry, its location and stability. Suitable action is taken, in case of any violation.

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