

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 41
ANSWERED ON 03.02.2025

Safety of workers in coal mines

41. Shri S. Selvaganabathy:

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

- (a) whether there are guidelines for safety and security of coal mines in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether these guidelines are reviewed from time to time and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the number of accidents that took place in coal mines during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (d) the number of people injured in these accidents along with the relief provided to families of deceased persons; and
- (e) the details of the guidelines prescribed by Government for safety and security in coal mines across the country?

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

(a) & (e): The guidelines for ensuring safety and security of coal mines in the country are as under:

1. Statutory Guidelines:

- Compliance with provisions made under the Mines Act, 1952, Coal Mines Regulations (CMR), 2017, Mines Rules, 1955 and related bylaws framed thereunder.
- Work permissions for the mining operations obtained from the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) as per Statute.
- Adherence to the directives being issued by DGMS in the form of Technical, Legal and General DGMS circulars.

2. Additional Safety Guidelines:

- Implementation of the Occupational Health and Safety Policies of Coal Companies
- Ministerial directives/advisories on mine safety being issued periodically.
- Internal technical circulars and advisories on mine safety, issued as need based requirements for maintaining and improving the standard of mine safety.

(b): All safety-related guidelines are periodically reviewed and updated as and when needed and appropriate amendments made by the Competent Authority. The earlier Coal Mines Regulations, 1957, framed under Section 57 of the Mines Act, 1952, were revised and suitably amended, leading to the enforcement of the Coal Mines Regulations, 2017 on 27th November

2017. Additionally, several forms and standards under the CMR-2017 were officially notified in October 2018. DGMS also issues Technical, Legal, and General circulars after reviewing existing statutory provisions for mine safety.

(c) & (d): The details of accidents reported in coal mines during the last three years are as under:

Year	Fatal accidents	Serious Accidents
2022	24	181
2023	38	117
2024	38	109
2025 (upto 28.01.2025)	0	7

The following compensation is provided to the dependent of deceased employee, who dies in any mine accident arising out of and in course of employment:

1. Compensation is provided in accordance with the provisions of the Employee's Compensation Act, 1923 (Principal Act), as amended to date.
2. An amount of ₹15 lakhs is paid to the dependent of the deceased employee as special relief/ ex-gratia. This is in addition to the compensation payable under the Employee's Compensation Act, 1923 (as amended).
3. Monetary benefits under the Life Cover Scheme (LCS) are provided to the dependent of the deceased departmental employee as per the provisions of the latest National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA).
4. Ex-gratia is paid in cases of death or permanent total disablement resulting from an accident arising out of and in the course of employment, as per the provisions of the latest NCWA.
5. Employment is provided to the eligible dependent of a deceased departmental employee. If no family member qualifies for employment, monetary compensation is paid monthly to the family of the deceased in lieu of employment.
