

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL**

**RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 11
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025**

Safety and welfare of coal mine workers

***11# Shri Mokariya Rambhai:**

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

- (a) the steps taken to modernise coal mines safety regulations;
- (b) the measures taken to ensure the safety and well-being of the workers;
- (c) the impact of the launch of National Coal Mine Safety Report Portal had on the conduct and monitoring of coal mines safety audits; and
- (d) the manner in which the 'Sneh Milan Mela' initiative aims to improve community engagement and cooperation in coal mining regions?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF THE RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 11 TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025 ASKED BY SHRI MOKARIYA RAMBHAI, HON'BLE MP REGARDING 'SAFETY AND WELFARE OF COAL MINE WORKERS'.

(a): The steps taken to modernise coal mines safety regulations are as under:

(i) The Coal Mines Regulations - 1957 framed under Section 57 of the Mines Act, 1952, were comprehensively amended to reflect progress in mining methods, mechanization, and application of emerging technologies. Taking into account the evolving nature of coal mining operations and the need for enhanced safety standards, the Coal Mines Regulations, 2017, were suitably amended and notified in the official Gazette by the concerned department of Central Government in the month of November 2017.

(ii) These updated, amended regulations, i.e. CMR 2017, have been uniformly enforced across all coal mines in India, ushering in a modernized framework that emphasizes risk-based safety management, worker protection, and the integration of contemporary advanced mining technologies.

(b): All coal mines are governed by the Mines Act, 1952, and rules, regulations framed thereunder. The Mines Act, 1952 is administered by the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) by way of the development of suitable legislations, rules, regulations, standards and guidelines, inspections, investigation of accidents, awareness activities, and formulating risk management plans.

Apart from compliance of the statutory provisions under the Mines Act, 1952, the Mines Rules-1955, the Coal Mine Regulations- 2017 and Bye Laws & Standing Order framed there under, the following steps are being taken to reduce the occurrence of such accidents in mines. Coal companies also administer mines through the modernised safety measures viz, Preparation and implementation of Site Specific Risk Assessment, Training on Mine Safety, Mine Safety Inspection, Conducting Safety Audit of mines, Adoption of the state-of-the art mechanism for Strata Management and Monitoring of mine environment. Additionally, specific safety measures for Opencast and Underground mines are as under:

(i) Opencast Mines - Use of eco-friendly Surface Miners for blast-free safe mining, Mine-specific Traffic Rules, Training on Simulators to HEMM operators, Dumpers with Proximity Warning Devices, Camera, Audio-Visual Alarm (AVA), Automatic Fire Detection & Suppression system, Geo-fencing in some large OCPs, High mast towers for increasing lighting and Integrated Command and Control Centres (ICCC).

(ii). Underground mines - Elimination of basket loading by introducing semi-mechanized technology, Replaced the cement capsules with resin capsules for an effective roof control system, introduction of Continuous Miner technology, and Emergency Response & Evacuation Plans (ER & EP).

(c): The National Coal Mine Safety Report (NCMSR) Portal plays a crucial role in enhancing mine safety by serving as a centralized platform for collecting and analysing data on mine accidents and mine safety audits. The NCMSR portal enables trend analysis of reported accidents, allowing for the early identification of potential high-risk areas and unsafe practices.

The NCMSR Portal provides company authorities an access to accident and mine safety audit data, enabling timely interventions to enhance safety standards in mines and take appropriate measures for the improvement of standards of mine safety.

(d): The Bhatgaon Area of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) had arranged small localized program named “Sneh Milan Mela” under the theme “Nasha Mukti”, focussing on drug de-addiction and social awareness among the workers and families through voluntary participation of employees, their families and local public solely for entertainment purpose with awareness on a social cause building social bonding among employees through their participation by installing food stalls and entertainment stalls build on no profit-no loss system and neither any financial grant nor any fund was raised for the said program, rather the said program was organised by the voluntary involvement of employees and their families for the sole purpose of community togetherness.
