

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 48
ANSWERED ON- 20.07.2026**

SAND STOWING/ BACKFILLING OF COAL MINES

48 DR. SASMIT PATRA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) details of underground and opencast coal mines in the State of Odisha where sand stowing, backfilling or void filling has been undertaken during the last five years, mine-wise;
- (b) quantity of sand utilised for such stowing/backfilling, year-wise and mine-wise;
- (c) details of sources from where such sand was procured, including names of lease holders or suppliers, quantity excavated, transportation records, royalty paid and statutory permissions obtained for excavation and transportation of such; and
- (d) whether Government maintains or verifies a documentary trail correlating the quantity of sand excavated, transported, actually utilised for mine stowing/backfilling and if so, the details thereof and, if not, reasons therefore?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL & MINES
(SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY)**

(a) & (b): The sand stowing is done in underground mines only. The details of underground coal mines in the State of Odisha where sand stowing has been undertaken are as follows:

Underground Mines, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL):

- Deulbera Colliery
- Handidhua Colliery

Sand stowing has been undertaken in the identified underground workings of the above mines for stabilisation purposes as per the guidelines of the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) and recommendations of scientific studies.

Opencast Mines (MCL):

Backfilling of excavated voids is undertaken in opencast mines of MCL as per approved Mining Plans, Mine Closure Plans and statutory provisions for reclamation, stabilisation and safe mine operation by using overburden. In all opencast mines of MCL, internal dumping of overburden has been done to fill the voids simultaneously along with coal extraction.

The year-wise and mine-wise details of the quantity of sand utilised for sand stowing/backfilling in Deulbera Colliery and Handidhua Colliery during the last five years are as follows:

Details of Quantity of Sand Stowing/Back filling, Excavation, Transportation, Royalty and Statutory Permissions in favour of Deulbera Colliery since the last 5 years:

Years	(b) Quantity of Sand utilised for stowing/back filling (m ³)	(c) Name of the Leaseholders or Supplier	Quantity of Sand excavated (m ³)	Transportation quantity of Sand (m ³)	Royalty Paid (Rs.)	Number of Statutory Permissions obtained
2021	5438.000	M/s MCL	23815.031	17524.080	84467.00	08
2022	7915.000	M/s MCL	30921.349	21071.425	114899.00	12
2023	7245.000	M/s MCL	11000.000	10828.826	53130.00	04
2024	3356.000	M/s MCL	6649.000	2788.835	29700.00	05
2025	3046.000	M/s MCL	11000.00	14895.282	57960.00	06

Details of Quantity of Sand Stowing/Back filling, Excavation, Transportation, Royalty and Statutory Permissions in favour of Handidhwa Colliery since the last 5 years:

Years	(b) Quantity of Sand utilised for stowing/back filling (m ³)	(c) Name of the Leaseholders or Supplier	Quantity of Sand excavated (m ³)	Transportation quantity of Sand (m ³)	Royalty Paid (Rs.)	Number of Statutory Permissions obtained
2021	3325.246	M/s MCL	00	00	00	00
2022	4133.000	M/s MCL	00	00	00	00
2023	1589.000	M/s MCL	00	00	00	00
2024	1958.500	M/s MCL	00	00	00	00
2025	47.000	M/s MCL	00	00	00	00

Note: Sand transportation has been obtained from CPI stock yard of Deulbera Colliery in the case of Handidhwa Colliery.

(c): The details of the source of sand, name of the lease holder/supplier, quantity of sand excavated, transportation records, royalty paid and statutory permissions obtained are furnished in the table under reply to Part (a) & (b) above.

The sand utilised for stowing was sourced from own lease, M/s MCL, from the Brahmani River bed. In the case of Handidhwa Colliery, sand transportation was arranged from the CPI Stock Yard of Deulbera Colliery. Necessary statutory permissions are obtained from the competent authorities before excavation and transportation of sand, and royalty is paid as applicable under the prevailing statutory provisions.

(d): Yes. MCL maintains a comprehensive documentary trail correlating the quantity of sand excavated, transported, and actually utilised for sand stowing/backfilling. The records maintained include:

- Quantity of sand utilised for stowing/backfilling.
- Quantity of sand excavated.
- Transportation records of sand.
- Royalty paid.
- Statutory permissions obtained for excavation and transportation of sand.
- Mine-wise and year-wise progress of sand stowing works.

The quantity of sand utilised for sand stowing/backfilling is reported to the Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) through quarterly progress reports. Compliance is further verified through departmental records, statutory inspections by DGMS and periodic technical reviews by mine management.
