

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

LOK SABHA
Unstarred Question No. 324
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17.11.2016

Incidents of Fire

324. SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:
SHRI P.R.SENTHIL NATHAN:

Will the **MINISTER OF COAL** be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of incidents of fire took place in the coal mines in the country during the last three years and the current year alongwith the reasons for such fires, State and mine-wise;
- (b) whether the Director General of Mines Safety has taken appropriate steps to prevent such fire incidents and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the steps taken by the Union Government to install and commission adequate number of fire protection systems in all the coal mines in the country;
- (d) the amount earmarked and disbursed to ensure installation of adequate fire safety and fire protection systems in all the coal mines of the country; and
- (e) whether the Union Government has envisaged any further precautionary fire protection measures in all the coal mines in the country, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER, NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

Reply (a): Company-wise details of incidents of fire that took place in mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries during the last three years and the current year along with the reasons for such fires, State and mine-wise is given in Annexure.

Reply (b): Official of DGMS during their routine inspection of the mine apprises the management about the dangers of fire in the mines and management is directed to take precautions accordingly. On being reported, all fires are properly attended by the officers of DGMS at the earliest possible time and appropriate steps are taken to prevent recurrence. Most of the Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (H.E.M.M.) is provided with Fully/Semi-automatic Fire Detection and Suppression System (F.D.S.S.). The management of coal companies have installed fire protection system in their mines and also independent control room is setup to monitor in case of any eventuality.

Reply (c): Adequate arrangements for fire protection are provided in all coal mines of CIL and its subsidiary as per various provisions stipulated under the Coal Mines Regulations- 1957 and also as per special conditions, if any, imposed by DGMS.

Reply (d): Necessary funds as required for installation of adequate safety arrangement for fire protection system in all mines of CIL and its subsidiary companies are being provided. Subsidiary-wise status of funds

allocated and disbursed/ utilized under safety capital head for last three years from 2013-14 to 2015-16 and funds allocated under safety capital head for the current year 2016-17 are given as under:

(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)

Companies	Under Safety Capital Head (2013-14)		Under Safety Capital Head (2014-15)		Under Safety Capital Head (2015-16)		Under Safety Capital Head (2016-17)
	Fund Allocated	Fund Utilized	Fund Allocated	Fund Utilized	Fund Allocated	Fund Utilized	Fund Allocated
ECL	4316.00	4136.00	7975.00	4598.00	6628.00	4450.00	6479.00
BCCL	3585.46	1654.00	2524.38	2034.65	2263.98	2008.65	2270.51
CCL	1225.22	578.84	1162.65	879.40	656.74	500.06	1019.82
NCL	614.00	5.92	104.00	72.00	1316.00	1316.00	840.00
WCL	325.00	376.3	533.00	205.47	1200.00	761.41	800.00
SECL	2600.00	950.27	2000.00	105.00	1346.60	350.00	4227.00
MCL	1141.58	970.34	961.44	826.83	715.32	679.55	941.00
NEC	150.67	37.30	72.59	45.79	135.10	57.23	261.63
CIL (Total)	13957.93	8708.97	15333.06	8767.14	14261.74	10122.90	

Reply (e): Apart from steps being taken as per various provisions stipulated under statutes and conditions imposed in DGMS permission, the following precautionary fire protection measures are been taken for implementation in phased manner in the mines of CIL and its subsidiary companies:

1. Using Gas Chromatograph for quicker and accurate mine air sample analysis.
2. Using online Environmental Tele-Monitoring System (ETMS) for Continuous monitoring of the mine atmosphere in all degree-III gassy and fiery underground mines.
3. Nitrogen flushing in fire affected areas.
4. Use of quick setting materials for construction of isolation stopping.
5. On-going R&D projects on fire topics and ranking of coal seams as per susceptibility to spontaneous heating / mine fire.
6. Detection of mine fire through satellite remote sensing imagery.
7. Use of automatic fire detection and suppression system in large HEMM in OC mines.

Annexure

Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL), Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL): No incidents of mine fire during the last three years and the current year.

Western Coalfields Limited (WCL):**Year – 2013:**

Period		Mine& State	Reason of Fire
From	To		
05/02/13	06/02/13	Mathani, Madhya Pradesh	Spontaneous heating
01/07/13	01/07/13	Vishnupuri-1, Madhya Pradesh	Spontaneous heating
17.8.13	18.8.13	Saoner-3, Maharastra	Spontaneous heating

Year 2014:

Period		Mine& State	Reason of Fire
From	To		
03/03/14	03/03/14	Saoner-3, Maharastra	Spontaneous heating
12/07/14	12/07/14	SilewaraUG, Maharastra	Spontaneous heating
13/9/14	15/9/14	DRC 6,7&8, Maharastra	Spontaneous heating. Mine was temporarily closed and re-opened on 25.03.2015

Year 2015:

Period		Mine& State	Reason of Fire
From	To		
06.04.15	09/04/15	DRC 4&5, Maharastra	Spontaneous heating
16.07.15	27.07.15	BC 3&4 Pits, Maharastra	Spontaneous heating
24.08.15	24.08.15	Nehariya, Madhya Pradesh	Spontaneous heating
16.10.15	17.10.15	Mohan, Madhya Pradesh	Spontaneous heating

Year 2016 (upto October):

Period		Mine& State	Reason of Fire
From	To		
20.01.16	23.01.16	Visnhupuri-2, Madhya Pradesh	Spontaneous heating

South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL):

The details of coal mine fire/ spontaneous heating for last 3 years & current year is given below;

Year	Name of Mines	State	Reasons	Occurrence of fire / spontaneous heating
2013	NCPH (R-6 mine)	Chhattisgarh	Sp. heating	2 nd May, 2013
2014	Nil	-	-	-
2015	Kapildhara	Madhya Pradesh	Sp. heating	August, 2015
2016	Nil	-	-	-

Mahanadi Coalfields Limited:

During the period, there is one case of fire due to spontaneous heating which was detected in Orient Mine No-3on 11/08/2015 and was subsequently sealed off on 15/08/2015. Further the mine was re-opened on 15/12/2015 successfully.