

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT**

LOK SABHA

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2127
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.01.2018
FIRE ACCIDENTS**

†2127. SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for repeated fire accidents in coal mines along with the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard;**
- (b) the details of the expenditure incurred by the Government for security in coal mines and factories situated in various States during the last two years and the current year; and**
- (c) the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to further improve fire fighting system of coal mines and factories in the country?**

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)**

(a): Coal fire takes place due to spontaneous heating and not complying the precautions laid down in the Coal Mines Regulations, 2017. Detailed precautions have been laid down in the Coal Mines Regulations, 2017 to guard against danger of fire in coal mines.

Following remedial actions are taken by Directorate General of Mines Safety under Ministry of Labour & Employment in Mines

- (i) Regular sample inspections are done by the officers of DGMS and based on the observations during the inspections, actions like - pointing out contraventions, withdrawal of permission, issue of improvement notice, prohibition of employment and prosecution are taken.**
- (ii) Accidents and dangerous occurrences due to fire are inquired into and based on the findings actions are taken to prevent similar accidents in future.**

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(iii) Following promotional measures are also taken - Conference on safety in mines, National Safety Awards (Mines), Observance of Safety Week and Safety Campaign.

(b): The onus of providing security and ensuring safety in mines rests with the mine managements, as clearly laid down under section 18 of the Mines Act, 1952 as “The owner and agent of every mine shall each be responsible for making financial and other provisions and for taking other such steps as may be necessary for compliance with the provisions of this Act and regulations, rules, bye-laws and orders made thereunder.”

(c): Based on the experiences, following measures have been taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to further improve firefighting system of coal mines:

(i) Amendment of safety laws- In view, of the recent technological developments and the experience of DGMS, The Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 has been recently replaced by The Coal Mines Regulations, 2017.

(ii) Issue of circulars for safer operations in identified thrust areas.

(iii) Issue of technical instructions to DGMS officers for their guidance.

For the factories which otherwise fulfills the criteria for coverage under the Factories Act, 1948, Section 38 of the Act provide for precautions in case of fire and the provision is as under:

Precautions in case of fire

(1) In every factory, all practicable measures shall be taken to prevent outbreak of fire and its spread, both internally and externally, and to provide and maintain:-

- (a) safe means of escape for all persons in the event of a fire, and**
- (b) the necessary equipment and facilities for extinguishing fire.**

(2) Effective measures shall be taken to ensure that in every factory all the workers are familiar with the means of escape in case of fire and have been adequately trained in the routine to be followed in such cases.

(3) The State Government may make rules, in respect of any factory or class or description of factories, requiring the measures to be adopted to give effect to the provisions of sub-sections (1) and (2).

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in clause (a) of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), if the Chief Inspector, having regard to the nature of the work carried on in any factory, the construction of such factory, special risk to life or safety, or any other circumstances, is of the opinion that the measures provided in the factory, whether as prescribed or not, for the purposes of clause (a) of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), are inadequate, he may, by order in writing, require that such additional measures as he may consider reasonable and necessary, be provided in the factory before such date as is specified in the order.

Further, the State Governments are empowered to frame their respective State Factories Rules under the Act and Section 41 of the Act empowers the State Governments to make Rules providing for supplementing the provisions of Section 38 of the Act. Both the Act and State Factories Rules are enforced by the respective State Governments. Further there are penal provisions provided under Section 92 of the Act, for violation of any of the provisions of the Act and the Rules framed thereunder and the Factory Inspectorates of the State Governments are empowered to take penal action for violation of the provision of the Act and State Factories Rules.
