

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

LOK SABHA
Unstarred Question No. 2595
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.01.2018

Fire in Coal Mines

2595. SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI:

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

- (a) whether some of the coal mines in the country are facing underground fire for quite some time and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the estimated losses due to such underground fire of coal mines during the last three years;
- (c) the reasons for such underground fire of coal mines and ways to prevent the same; and
- (d) the measures taken to stop/prevent underground fire in coal mines, if any, already undertaken and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b): As informed by Coal India Limited (CIL), no operative / producing underground coal mine of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries is facing underground mine fire.

(c): The main reason of fire in underground coal mines is spontaneous combustion of coal which is the process of self-heating of coal when exposed to air. If the rate of dissipation of heat is relatively slow as compared to the progress of heat by oxidation, there is a gradual build-up of heat and coal bed temperature reaches to the ignition point of coal thereby causing fire. Such fire can be prevented by nitrogen flushing in fire affected areas and use of quick setting materials for construction of isolation stopping.

(d): The following measures are normally taken to stop /prevent underground fire in coal mines:

1. Ensuring proper ventilation.
2. Adoption of panel system working.
3. Provision of gas detecting apparatus.
4. Sealing off of worked out / depillared panels.
5. Extraction of highly susceptible or thick coal seams in conjunction with sand stowing.
6. Monitoring ambient mine environment conditions by sampling and analysis on regular basis.
7. Stone dusting.
8. Removal of spalled fallen coal regularly from workings, which are not sealed-off.
9. Regular inspection of old workings.
