

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

LOK SABHA
Unstarred Question No. 5390
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2018

Underground Coal Mining

5390. DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH:

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

- (a) whether underground coal mines in various parts of the country are being stowed by sand;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the methods of sand stowing adopted and the cost incurred;
- (c) whether due to non-availability of sand, other materials are stowed in underground mines; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): As per directives of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS), in the stowing method of coal extraction, underground coal mines are stowed by sand.

(b): Sand is stowed in the voids of the underground coal mines by hydraulic means, wherein sand-water slurry is transported underground through pipeline by gravity.

Details of the coal mines stowed and cost incurred by various coal companies during 2016-17 are as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of Coal Company	No. of stowing mines	Cost incurred (in Rs. Crore)
1	ECL	34	107.96
2	BCCL	5	2.08
3	CCL	5	1.53
4	WCL	12	26.99
6	SCCL	20	129.35
7	SAIL	3	5.41
8	TSL (Tata Steel Limited)	5	16.75

(c) & (d): Due to scarcity of sand, various experimental trials have been conducted to use other materials like fly ash, boiler ash, crushed overburden material etc. for stowing in underground mines as a substitute for sand. Currently, crushed overburden material is used for stowing purposes in the underground coal mines where sand is not available in the near vicinity of the mine or it is costlier to transport sand from the distant river sources.
