

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.315
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.01.2019**

Safety and Security of Coal Mines

*315 :SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
SHRI ASHOKSHANKARRAOCHAVAN

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) The details of the guidelines prescribed by the Government for safety and security in coal mines across the country;
- (b) Whether the Government has conducted Safety Audit in all coal mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries;
- (c) If so, the details thereof and the deficiencies identified during the Safety Audit;
- (d) Whether the serious injuries in per metric tonne rate is increasing;
- (e) If so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year and the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) The further steps taken/ being taken by the Government to improve safety standard of coalmines in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

- (a) to (f): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (f) in respect of Lok Sabha Question No. 315 for reply on 2nd January, 2019 asked by Shri Sudheer Gupta and Shri Ashok Shankarrao Chavan regarding Safety and Security of Coal Mines

(a): Safety, welfare and health of workers employed in mines are the concern of the Central Government (Entry 55-Union List-Article 246). The objective is regulated by the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India administers this Act in the mining sector. The relevant Regulations/ Rules relating to safety of Coal mines are as below:

- a. Mines Act, 1952
- b. Coal Mines Regulations, 2017
- c. Mines Rules, 1955
- d. Mines Vocational Training Rules, 1966
- e. Mines Rescue Rules, 1985

Also, keeping in line with the mandate under the Mines Act, 1952, the Officers of DGMS undertake sample inspections of mines and based on the contraventions observed during the inspection action as provided under law is taken.

Further, Ministry of Coal has not issued any guidelines in respect of security of Coal Mines of CIL and its subsidiaries. However, Coal companies are availing services of different security agencies like Departmental Security, Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR) sponsored Security, Home Guards, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and State Industrial Security Force (SISF).

(b)&(c): Yes Madam. Safety Audit has been conducted in all producing coal mines of CIL and its subsidiaries in the year 2017-18 by the multi-disciplinary inter-company teams.

During the safety audit of each mine, the respective Safety Audit team assesses the existing safety status of the respective coal mine and point out deficiencies thereof for each mine. Deficiencies identified by the respective safety audit team are mine, site and situation specific and varies from mine to mine. However, requisite corrective measures, as deemed fit, for rectifications of such deficiencies have been initiated by the respective mines.

(d)&(e): No Madam. The details of the serious injuries per metric tonne of coal produced, as per returns submitted by Mine Management to DGMS, shows a decreasing trend which are as follows:

Year	Serious Injury per metric tonne
2015	0.000000456
2016	0.000000403
2017	0.000000279
2018	0.000000269

(f): Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) has taken following steps to improve safety standard of coal mine in the country:

- i) Sample inspection of Mines and action is taken as per law based on the observations during the inspections,
- ii) Enquiry into Accidents, Dangerous Occurrences etc. and action is taken as per law based on the findings of the enquiry,
- iii) Amendment of safety laws,
- v) Issue of guidelines for safer operations in identified thrust areas through circulars and issue of technical instructions to DGMS officers for their guidance.
- vi) Introduction of Risk Assessment Techniques and preparation of safety management plan aimed at elimination of risks and to ensure safety of workmen.
- vii) Introduction of standard operating procedures to avoid unsafe practices in mines.

In addition to above, the following steps to improve safety standard of coal mines are also being taken by coal companies:

1. Preparation and implementation of risk assessment based Safety Management Plans (SMPs).
2. Preparation and implementation of Principal Hazards Management Plans (PHMPs) along with Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP).
3. Formulation and compliance of Site-specific Risk Assessment based Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
4. Conducting safety audit of mines.
5. Online Centralized Safety Monitoring System “CIL Safety Information System (CSIS)” has been developed for monitoring different safety parameters.

...