

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3598  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.01.2019**

**Soil Erosion due to Coal Mining Activity**

3598. SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of cases of soil erosion reported as a result of coal mining activities since last three years including the occurrence in Talcher coal bearing area of Mahanadi coal field;  
(b) the number of casualties reported during the said period; and  
(c) the reasons and the remedial measures taken to address the problem?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

(a): There is no case of soil erosion as a result of coal mining activities since last three years in Coal India Ltd. (CIL) subsidiaries including Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) command area.

(b): No casualty has been reported during last 3 years due to soil erosion.

(c): The main reasons for soil erosion are deforestation, heavy winds and flow of water. CIL has informed that massive plantation work is done by the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited including Mahanadi Coalfields Limited over the Over Burden (OB) dump areas and other available vacant areas to control soil erosion as per Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for each of mining project. Technical reclamation of over burden dumps with levelling, grading are being done. Gully plugging, Garland drains are provided to arrest and control soil erosion. Top soil is being laid over the dump surface for biological reclamation and plantation.

The company wise land area reforested / planted is as follows:

Subsidiary	Plantation work					
	During 2015-16		During 2016-17		During 2017-18	
	No.	Ha.	No.	Ha.	No.	Ha.
<i>Eastern Coalfields Ltd.</i>	250000	100	257500	103.00	259800	110.43
<i>Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.</i>	28648	94.44	100000	41.2	97755	55.2
<i>Central Coalfields Ltd.</i>	117775	47.11	66225	26.5	202957	83.001
<i>Western Coalfields Ltd.</i>	0	0	125900	50.55	125000	50
<i>South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.</i>	743175	297.27	589000	235.60	694552	285.19
<i>Northern Coalfields Ltd.</i>	370605	111	380000	146.85	100752	40.3
<i>Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.</i>	173303	69.32	138000	55.2	512750	196.9
<i>North Eastern Coalfields</i>	4000	0*	5620	2.3	1600	0.5
Total	1687506	719.14	1662245	661.20	1995166	821.52

\* Re plantation done due to non-survival of saplings over already planted area

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