

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1721
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.2.2019**

Coal Mine Accidents

1721. DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of accidents that took place in various coal mines in India especially in Odisha during the last four years and the current year along with the nature thereof and the number of persons injured/killed in the said accidents during the aforesaid period;
- (b) whether any enquiry has been conducted to ascertain the reasons behind these accidents and the number of persons found guilty along with any action taken against them for the said accidents;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government to improve the safety of coal mines workers in various parts of the country including Odisha?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF FINANCE, RAILWAYS, COAL AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): The number of fatal and serious accidents that took place in various coal mines in subsidiaries of CIL including MCL (operated in Odisha) during the last four years and the current year (upto January 2019) and the number of persons killed and seriously injured in the said accidents are given in Annexure-I.

(b)&(c): Yes Madam. All fatal accident cases were investigated to ascertain the causes and circumstances leading to these mine accidents.

The law enforcing agency / regulatory authority under the Mines Act- 1952 i.e. the Directorate General of Mine safety (DGMS) under the aegis of Ministry of Labour & Employment (MOLE) have conducted statutory enquiry to find out the causes and circumstances leading to these accidents, fixing the responsibility of person(s) and to suggest the corrective measures required to be taken to prevent recurrence of similar type of fatal accident as per the provisions under the Mines Act-1952.

Apart from statutory inquiry conducted by DGMS, all mine accidents are also inquired / investigated by the Mine Manager or any Asst. Manager authorized by the Mine Manager and the Safety Officer of the respective mine as per provisions made under the Coal Mine Regulation- 2017. The Internal Safety Organization (ISO) of each subsidiary company has also conducted enquiry in case of any fatal accident.

The causes and circumstances leading to those mine accidents have been identified through these investigations. The inquiry officials have also recommended corrective measures to be taken to prevent recurrence of accidents and identified responsibility of persons for such accidents. Subsidiary-wise status of actions taken against those persons, who are held responsible in ISO enquiry, as per provisions of CIL's CDA Rules – 1978 (for executives) and Certified Standing Orders of the respective subsidiary (for non-executive employees) after completing all essential disciplinary proceedings are given in Annexure-II.

(d): Following corrective measures have been taken/ being taken by Government to improve the safety of coal mines workers working in various coalfields:

- Drafting of appropriate legislation and setting safety standards to facilitate reduction in risk to persons employed in mines.
- Ensuring compliance of statutory provisions through inspection, follow up for corrective action subsequent to the inspection and implementing variety of safety initiatives:
 - Awareness programs creating an environment in which safety is given due priority;
 - Issue of guidelines for safer operations in identified thrust areas through circulars;
 - Issue of technical instructions by inspecting authorities (like DGMS) for their compliance;
 - National Conference on Safety in Mines;
 - Risk assessment and preparation of safety management plan;
 - Workers' participation in safety management;
 - Observance of safety week and safety campaigns;
 - Tripartite and bipartite review at various levels;
 - National Safety Awards;
 - Mock drills in mines involving mine management & workers to check emergency response preparedness.
- Investigation of all accidents, dangerous occurrences and, based on these, formulation and implementation of appropriate measures in consultation with mine management and workers.

Annexure-I

Number of fatal and serious accidents that took place in various coal mines in subsidiaries of CIL including MCL (operated in Odisha) during last 4 years and current year (upto January-2019)

Sub.	Fatal Accidents					Fatalities					Serious Accidents					Serious Injuries				
	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19
ECL	7	9	9	1	0	7	31	9	2	0	40	44	20	24	0	40	44	20	25	0
BCCL	7	6	2	2	0	7	6	2	2	0	9	5	13	7	0	9	5	13	7	0
CCL	2	4	5	5	1	2	4	6	8	1	5	7	5	9	0	5	8	5	16	0
NCL	1	4	3	3	0	1	4	3	3	0	19	13	10	8	0	20	13	10	8	0
WCL	8	5	3	2	0	8	5	3	5	0	25	17	18	17	0	27	17	18	17	0
SECL	10	8	7	12	0	10	9	9	15	0	35	27	36	18	1	36	29	36	19	1
MCL	3	2	5	8	0	3	2	5	8	0	4	7	6	4	1	4	7	6	4	1
NEC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CIL	38	38	34	33	1	38	61	37	43	1	137	120	108	87	2	141	123	108	96	2

Annexure-II

Subsidiary-wise status of actions taken against persons, who are held responsible in ISO enquiry, as per provisions made under CIL's CDA Rules – 1978 (for executives) and Certified Standing Orders of respective subsidiary (for non-executive employees) as on date

(all figures in number)

Year	Action taken against persons, who are held responsible in ISO enquiry
ECL	
2015	14
2016	9
2017	10
2018	0
BCCL:	
2015	22
2016	21
2017	6
2018	2
CCL	
2015	1
2016	6
2017	8
2018	11
NCL	
2015	1
2016	6
2017	3
2018	2
WCL	
2015	18
2016	27
2017	19
2018	6
SECL	
2015	33
2016	28
2017	33
2018	30
MCL	
2015	11
2016	5
2017	12
2018	2

