

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1483
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2019**

Fire Accidents in Coal Mines

1483. DR. DNV SENTHILKUMAR S.
SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH CHOUDHARY
SHRI SHRIRANG APPABARNE
SHRI VINAYAK RAUT
DR. HEENA GAVIT:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government's attention is drawn to repeated fire accidents in various coal mines;
- (b) if so, the number of fire accidents that occurred in various coal mines in the country particularly Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Jharkhand along with the loss of life and property caused during each of the last five years and the current year, company and State-wise;
- (c) the reasons for repeated fire accidents;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any investigation in this regard and if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government against the guilty persons, company-wise till date;
- (e) the funds allocated and spent for ensuring the safety and security of workers in these coal mines during the said period, company-wise along with the funds released to compensate the victim of accidents during the last three years, company-wise; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such accidents in future?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) & (b): There was no repeated fire accidents occurred in mines of CIL and its subsidiaries and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) during the last five years. However, there were some fire accidents that occurred in the mines of NCL and BCCL in last five years and current year.

Company-wise and state-wise the number of fire accidents that occurred in various coal mines in last five years are as under.

Company	Date of fire accident	Mine	State
ECL, CCL, WCL, SECL, MCL, SCCL	No fire accidents causing loss of life and property due to fire accidents.		
BCCL	19.08.2015	Rajapur OCP	Jharkhand
NCL	02.06.2016	Khadia OCP	UP
	05.05.2018	Dudhichua OCP	MP

(c): The reasons of fire accidents as mentioned in reply (b) are as under:

Company	Date of fire accident	Mine	State	Reasons of fire	Loss of life & properties
BCCL	19.08.2015	Rajapur OCP	Jharkhand	One shovel operator got burn injury while handling fiery coal seam	1 fatality
NCL	02.06.2016	Khadia OCP	UP	While removing airlock from diesel circuit got burn injuries in diesel tank of tipper.	1 fatality
	05.05.2018	Dudhichua OCP	MP	Sustained burn injuries due to accidental bursting of oxygen cylinder at CHP.	1 fatality

(d): Investigations done in this regard is mentioned below:

BCCL: Investigation was done by ISO and recommended for strict compliance with SOPs for dealing fire. Further, following action was taken by BCCL against the persons held responsible for the above fire accident.

- i. Sri S.M. Aslam, Mgr (Exv.) - warning letter issued.
- ii. Sri J.K. Mishra, Sr. Mgr (Min.) - warning letter issued.
- iii. Sri Hari Shankar Nonia, Foreman Incharge (Elec.) – warning letter issued.
- iv. Sri Suresh Kumar Munda, Sr. Mech (Maintenance) - warning letter issued.

NCL: The enquiry has been conducted by Internal Safety Organization (ISO) and DGMS officials. The details are provided below:

SN	Particulars	Findings	Recommendations	Action taken person held responsible
1	Fatal accident of Sri Md. Firoz Ansari dated 02.06.2016	Wrong practice of using wiper motor pump with battery of tipper	(1) Framing and implementation of SOP of all activities of outsourcing works. (2) Conducting Safety talks for increasing awareness of safe practices among workmen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demotion to lower post – 2 persons • Imposition of Censure – 1 person
2.	Fatal accident of Sri Lalman Gupta, Dated 05.05.2018	Bursting of oxygen cylinder due to run over of dozer on the cylinder.	(1) Proper housekeeping. (2) Work to be carried out under constant supervision of a competent supervisor. (3) Proper communication of work to the workmen.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One increment stopped – 3 persons • Memo issued – 1 person

(e): As informed by coal companies, funds allocated and spent for ensuring the safety and security of workers in these coal mines company wise during last 3 years is as follows:

(All figures in lakh rupees)

Company	Year 2016-17		Year 2017-18		Year 2018-19	
	Funds allocated	Utilized	Funds allocated	Utilized	Funds allocated	Utilized
ECL	22304	18078	22605	17092	20214	13933
BCCL	23474	18628	21929	18016	19478	9219
CCL	2250	1924	2700	2141	1764	146
NCL	6632	5780	9795	9565	11300	2538
WCL	10891	10511	9000	9065	8400	5848
SECL	21500	19271	19751	17735	18100	14523
MCL	6095	6015	6649	6415	6774	5326
SCCL (capital)	1069	145	1365	1133	961	1034

Funds released for compensation of the said fire accidents are as under:

BCCL: Compensation of Rs 639200 was paid to the next of kin of victim of Rajapur OC accident.

NCL: Compensation details:

Project	Date of Accident	Name of Deceased	Compensation
Khadia (UP)	02.06.2016	Sri Md. Firoz Ansari, Cont. worker	Rs. 8,67,640
Dudhichua (UP)	05.05.2018	Sri Lalman Gupta, Fitter (Cat-VI)	Rs. 4,98,800

(f): The following steps are taken to prevent fire accident in mines:

- Compliance of statutory provisions.
- Preparation and Implementation of SMPs (Safety Management Plans)
- Precautionary measures are being taken to plan extraction of panels within incubation period, sectionalization of old workings, inert gas flushing, pressure balancing etc.
- Safety audit of the mines are being conducted.
- Apparatus for detecting of fire/ symptom of fire are provided in all underground mines.
- Preparation and implementation of Principal Hazards Management Plans (PHMPs) along with Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP).
