

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2614
TO BE ANSWERED ON 4.12.2019**

“Flooding in Coal Mines”

2614. SHRI ARUN SAO:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether on 29th September, 2019 Dipka coal mine of SECL was submerged in water due to the flood in Lilagar river in Kobra district of Chhattisgarh and as a result the water could not be pumped out of the mines and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the production of coal has been affected due to the flooding and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the power generation was halted in NTPC, Sipat for about a week due to non-supply of coal as a result of which the target set for annual coal production is likely to be affected;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to avoid recurrence of such incidents along with the details of the enquiry conducted in this regard and the action taken against the responsible persons?

ANSWER

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

(a): Yes Sir, there was heavy rainfall started from 03.00 AM on 29.09.2019 and continued till evening. At about 3.00 PM, there was a sudden increase in water level of Lilagar river, located about 60 mtrs. from the mine boundary in Surbhondi-Renki side. The sudden increase of water was so high and heavy that it over flew its banks in the mine side and breached the embankment to enter the mine at a width of about 30 to 40 mtrs. Power supply was also got disrupted due to damage of Poles and Switches/Cables. The inrush of water gradually diminished and embankment by dumping of earthen material with the help of Dozer was made against River which was further strengthened. The pumping operation was restored on 01.10.2019 and presently 24,000 GPM pumping is being done. About 60% of water has been dewatered.

(b): The coal Production from the mine was restarted immediately after two days of the incidence i.e. from 02.10.2019. Presently the mine is producing 70,000 Tonnes coal per day, which will further increase.

(c) to (d): Power generation from NTPC Sipat got affected during September 2019 and October, 2019 due to flooding of South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL) Dipka mine on 29th September, 2019. Coal production target is likely to be affected due to flooding of mine. However, SECL has taken actions to make up the shortfall in production by starting a new section in the same mine.

(e): To prevent recurrence of the incidence, following steps have been taken:

1. New HFL (Highest Flood Level) has been physically demarcated and embankment above the new HFL has been made with earth material.
2. Scientifically designed structured embankment with stone pitching will be constructed and construction work will be completed before onset of next monsoon.
