

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 606  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.11.2019**

**Coalfields fires in Jharia Mines**

**606. SHRI RITESH PANDEY:**

Will the **MINISTER OF COAL** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether efforts are being made to douse the coalfield fires in Jharia mines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any efforts are being made to rehabilitate the people living near coalfields and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the quantum of losses to be Ministry due to damages by the fire and its associated phenomenon?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) & (b): Yes Sir. A Master Plan has been approved by Government of India in August, 2009 to deal with fire, subsidence and rehabilitation in the lease hold of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) of Jharia Coalfield. BCCL has adopted a Strategic Plan to liquidate the fires through excavation method by deploying hired Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM) in various mines of BCCL. Further, for monitoring purpose, in every three years, surface fire study is done by National Remote Sensing Center, Hyderabad.

(c) Yes Sir. 595 unstable sites have been identified in the approved Master Plan 2009. As per plan, BCCL is to construct 15852 houses out of which 7714 houses has been constructed so far and 4026 families shifted. The remaining houses are under construction and will be completed by June 2020.

Further, Jharia Rehabilitation Development Authority (JRDA) under Jharkhand Govt. has constructed 6352 houses (out of 54159 houses) out of which 2152 families have been shifted.

(d) In the Master Plan prepared by CMPDI, it has been estimated that about 37 MT of good quality prime coking coal has been destroyed due to fire.

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