

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3931
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.03.2020**

Guidelines for Safety and Security in Coal Mines

3931. SHRI SANJAY SETH:
SHRIMATI APARAJITA SARANGI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the guidelines prescribed by the Government for safety and security in coal mines across the country including Jharkhand;
- (b) whether the Government has conducted Safety Audit in all coal mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries and if so, the details thereof and the deficiencies identified during the Safety Audit;
- (c) whether the serious injuries in per metric tonne rate is increasing;
- (d) if so, the number of cases of death and fatal injuries that have occurred in coal mines in the country including Odisha over the past five years and the current year;
- (e) whether the victims of coal mine accidents and their families have received any compensation and if so, whether there have been any delay in their receipt; and
- (f) further steps taken/being taken by the Government to improve safety standard of coal mines in the country as well as to provide workers with safety gear?

ANSWER

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

(a): Safety, welfare and health of workers employed in mines are the concern of the Central Government (Entry 55-Union List-Article 246). The objective is regulated by the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India administers this Act in the mining sector. The relevant Regulations/ Rules relating to safety of Coal mines are as below:

- a. Mines Act, 1952
- b. Coal Mines Regulations, 2017
- c. Mines Rules, 1955
- d. Mines Vocational Training Rules, 1966
- e. Mines Rescue Rules, 1985

Also, keeping in line with the mandate under the Mines Act, 1952, the Officers of DGMS undertake sample inspections of mines and based on the contraventions observed during the inspection action as provided under law is taken.

Further, Ministry of Coal has not issued any guidelines in respect of security of Coal Mines of CIL and its subsidiaries. However, Coal companies are availing services of different security agencies like Departmental Security, Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR) sponsored Security, Home Guards, Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and State Industrial Security Force (SISF).

(b): Safety Audit has been conducted for all the operating mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries for the year 2019-20.

Brief details of safety audit of mines are as under:

1. Safety Audit of mine is carried out through inter-area teams of the respective subsidiary.
2. All teams are multi-disciplinary.
3. Audit methodology consists of inspection of mine, examination of all relevant documents, scrutiny of Safety Management Plans (SMP) and report of previous safety audit.
4. Objective is to assess status of mine safety and to identify deficiencies therein, if any, to review various systems adopted and followed for mine safety as well as to suggest / recommend the areas of improvement.

Deficiencies, if exists, are identified during the said Safety Audit. Deficiencies are mine-specific and varies in each mine. Appropriate corrective actions, as deemed fit, are taken to rectify mine-specific deficiencies.

(c)&(d): Serious injuries rate per metric tonne of coal produced in CIL for last five years and current year are decreasing, which is given below:

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 upto Feb.
	0.27	0.23	0.19	0.16	0.15	0.15

Number of death and fatal injuries in CIL including Odisha for last five years and current year are given below:

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 upto Feb
	38	61	37	43	34	3

(e): Yes, compensation as per the Employee Compensation Act-1923 (amended upto 2017) have been received by the dependents of the deceased employees of CIL and its subsidiaries, who were fatally injured in mining accidents. There have been no delay in providing compensation to the dependents of the deceased employees of CIL and its subsidiaries. However, there are 3 pending cases. Out of 3 cases, 2 cases (one each in 2015 & 2016) are pending because matter is sub-judice and one case of 2019 is pending and same is under process.

(f): Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) has taken following steps to improve safety standard of coal mine in the country:

- i) Sample inspection of Mines and action is taken as per law based on the observations during the inspections.
- ii) Enquiry into Accidents, Dangerous Occurrences etc. and action is taken as per law based on the findings of the enquiry,
- iii) Amendment of safety laws,
- v) Issue of guidelines for safer operations in identified thrust areas through circulars and issue of technical instructions to DGMS officers for their guidance.
- vi) Introduction of Risk Assessment Techniques and preparation of safety management plan aimed at elimination of risks and to ensure safety of workmen.
- vii) Introduction of standard operating procedures to avoid unsafe practices in mines.

In addition to above, the following steps to improve safety standard of coal mines are also being taken by coal companies:

1. Preparation and implementation of risk assessment based Safety Management Plans (SMPs).
2. Preparation and implementation of Principal Hazards Management Plans (PHMPs) along with Trigger Action Response Plan (TARP).
3. Formulation and compliance of Site-specific Risk Assessment based Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
4. Conducting safety audit of mines.
5. Online Centralized Safety Monitoring System “CIL Safety Information System (CSIS)” has been developed for monitoring different safety parameters.
