

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 588
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01/12/2021

Sand Stowing

588. Shri Mahesh Sahoo:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any strict rule and definite timeline for sand stowing of underground coal mines;
- (b) if so, whether it is being adhered to by the responsible authorities; and
- (c) the time by which the sand stowing work of Dulabera and Handidhua at Talcher in Angul district will be completed?

ANSWER

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

- (a) Sand stowing is carried out as per the statutory provisions and guidelines of the regulatory authority, Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS). All mines are planned and operated as per the approved mining plan including mine closure wherein time frame for stowing is usually specified. The timeline for sand stowing may vary depending upon mining conditions. Sand stowing is required to be carried out in the portion where depillaring with sand stowing is required or any area where stabilization is needed. Sand stowing activity is monitored by DGMS from time to time.
- (b) Yes, it is executed under the direct supervision of competent person.
- (c) The sand stowing works of Deulabera and Handidhua mines are expected to be completed within three to five years, subject to clearance of hindrances and availability of land.
