

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*173
TO BE ANSWERED ON 05.05.2016

Sand Stowing

***173DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH :**

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

- (a) whether sand stowing of various underground coal mines in the country has been undertaken and evaluated, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the coal-mining companies are liable for not undertaking sand stowing as per stipulations, if so, the details thereof, State-wise and the corrective action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether possibility of man-made earthquakes has been evaluated on account of improper sand stowing of coal mines, particularly in seismic zone-III; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL,
POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 173 FOR 05.05.2016

(a): Coal is extracted mainly by Bord and Pillar technology underground mines. In this method, initially a mine is developed forming coal pillars and subsequently coal pillars are extracted either through caving method or by stowing method where surface structures are to be protected over the mined out areas. In case of stowing method, sand is filled in the voids created by extraction of coal from underground mines. Details of subsidiary-wise stowing done in 2015-16 in various companies of Coal India Limited are given as below:

S. No.	Name of company	Quantity of sand stowed (m ³)
1	ECL	1848529
2	BCCL	117436
3	CCL	22781
4	WCL	859754

(b): Sand Stowing is needed when surface features are required to be protected and is considered as activity related to safety. Any extraction of coal pillars earlier by caving or by stowing method can only be done after getting permission from Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS). Regular inspections of mine workings are being done by officials of DGMS and the officials are empowered to take actions for not undertaking sand stowing as per the approved conditions. The owner/Agent/Manager of the mine has to furnish monthly statement of quantity of sand stowed.

(c) & (d): There is no record of man-made earthquake so far in underground mines. As such, no such study has been undertaken so far.
