

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:849
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2003
MINE ACCIDENTS
UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have studied the causes of frequent accidents in coal mines in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have issued any new guidelines for the PSUs coal mines to undertake safety measures;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the safety of workers in coal mines?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA)

(a) & (b): The cause of accidents in coal mines are analysed and published by the Directorate General of Mines Safety periodically. On the basis of the study, mine managements are directed to take necessary corrective actions. The number of accidents (cause-wise) which occurred in coal mines during the last five years are given in the annexure.

(c) & (d): The Directorate General of Mines Safety issues guidelines in the form of circulars regularly. Recently a meeting with the Chairman and Managing Directors of all the coal companies in the Public Sector, Scientific Bodies and Educational Institutions was held on 7.11.2003 at Kolkata and guidelines to prevent accidents due to fall of roof were issued.

(e): The provisions of Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and regulations framed there under regulate safety of persons employed in mines. The safety laws are kept under constant review and are amended from time to time according to requirements. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management for improving safety measures. The various safety provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect the mines regularly to oversee the status of compliance of the safety provisions, and to take action under the Mines Act, 1952 in case of default. Besides legislative measures, the Government takes initiatives for promoting safety awareness amongst the workers as well as mine managements through the following measures:-

- (a) Organizing Conferences on safety in mines.
- (b) Encouraging self regulation by managements
- (c) Promoting Workers` participations in safety management
- (d) Tripartite and Bipartite reviews at various levels on the safety measures.
- (e) Training of workers on safety in mines
- (f) Observance of safety week and safety campaign
- (g) National Safety Awards.

Annexure

Statement Showing the Cause-wise Trend of Accidents in Coal Mines

Causes Number of Fatal Accidents Number of Serious Accidents

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Fall of Roof	35	33	27	30	23	48	55	43	35	45
Fall of Sides	15	11	14	9	11	29	23	45	43	38
Other Ground Movements	0	4	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	0
Winding in Shafts	3	3	3	2	0	1	3	3	6	4
Rope Haulage	18	12	8	15	6	109	117	101	116	85
Dumpers Trucks, etc.	20	20	30	19	14	30	49	42	32	27

Other Transportation

Machinery	3	7	3	1	2	13	13	16	23	20
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Non-Transportation

Machinery	11	6	9	10	9	36	30	47	34	39
Explosive	4	5	1	2	4	6	6	4	7	9
Electricity	5	7	3	4	4	7	5	4	5	7
Gas,Dust,Fire,etc.	2	1	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Fall of Persons	7	10	9	7	4	142	142	161	191	150
Fall of Objects	2	2	2	2	2	59	70	88	83	98
Other Causes	3	6	2	4	1	42	80	106	91	101

Total	128	127	117	105	81	523	595	661	667	625
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Note: Data for 2002 are provisional