

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:844  
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005  
SAUNDA MINING INCIDENT  
Masood Shri Rasheed

**Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether Saunda Mining incident has since been probed into by Ministry of Labour and Employment;
- (b) if so, the details and findings thereof;
- (c) the follow-up action taken thereon;
- (d) whether any directions/guidelines have been issued by the Government to the Coal India Limited regarding safety of the employees during mining; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

- (a): The Ministry of Labour and Employment has constituted a Court of Inquiry under Section 24 of the Mines Act, 1952 on 17th October, 2005 under the Chairmanship of Dr. P.D. Shenoy, former Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment to hold an inquiry into the accident at Central Saunda Colliery which occurred on 15th June, 2005 (Ill shift of 14th June, 2005).
- (b) & (c): The Court of Inquiry held its first sitting on 19th and 20th November, 2005. Follow-up action, if any, will depend on the findings of the Court of Inquiry.
- (d) & (e): Besides the provisions for safety already existing in the Mines Act, 1952 and the regulations framed thereunder, the Directorate General of Mines Safety issues circulars, from time to time, containing safety guidelines to coal companies.