

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:84
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2006
UNSAFE COAL MINES
Subba Shri Moni Kumar

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether over 50% of the coal mines operating under the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) and others have been declared unsafe;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefore, mine-wise;
- (c) whether safety audit is periodically carried out in respect of coal mines operating under the BCCL and others;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken to provide due safety to the workers of these collieries?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a): No, Sir. Mining operations are carried out in Coal mines of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.(BCCL) and other subsidiary companies of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) in accordance with the statutes under Mines Act 1952 and rules and regulations framed there under such as Coal Mines Regulations 1957, Mines Rules 1955 etc. and circulars issued from time to time by DGMS. Permissions are obtained from DGMS wherever necessary. However, if violations are pointed out during the course of inspections by the officials of DGMS, immediate action is taken by officials of mines to rectify the violations. In addition, officers of Internal Safety Organizations of subsidiary companies also carry regular inspection of mines to monitor safety of mines and person's working therein.

(b): Does not arise in view of the reply given to part (a) above.

(c) & (d): Safety audit in subsidiary companies are conducted periodically. The details of Safety Audit conducted in different subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd. are as under:

Status of Safety Audit

Company	No.of round of last safety audit conducted	Year of comp- letion of last /due safety audit	In progress
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Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	6th	2004	2006
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Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	4th	2005	2007
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Central Coalfields Ltd.	6th	2004	2006
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Northern Coalfields Ltd.	10th	2006	2007
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Western Coalfields Ltd.	5th	2006	2008
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South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	6th	2005	2007
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(e): Following broad safety measures are being adopted by CIL to provide due safety to the workers:

1. CIL has established a structured multi-disciplinary Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) to assist the line management at various levels in matters related to safety.
2. Conducting of Safety Audit of mines by experts for assessment of threats and implementation of the recommendations thereof once every 2 years or earlier if necessary.
3. Introduction of Risk Assessment as a tool for improvement of safety - Risk assessment has been conducted in some mines in each coal producing mines of C.I.L.
4. Thrust is being maintained on preparedness for emergencies through:
 - (a) Reviewing emergency action plans for each and every district in under ground.
 - (b) Demarcating escape routes on plans as well as in working areas below ground.
 - (c) Conducting mock rehearsals and monitoring failure points for further improvement.
5. Towards avoidance of accident due to inundation the following measures are being taken.
 - (a) Taking the required preventive measures against danger of inundation after assessment of danger from under ground and surface source of water in each mine prior to every monsoon
 - (b) Conducting check surveys by company surveyors as well as cross checking the same in some cases by external agencies.
 - (c) Establishment of centralized emergency pumping arrangement for use during emergencies.
6. Thrust on measures for reduction of roof and side-fall accidents in below ground mines are being continued by
 - (a) Drawing up of support plans based on RMR and implementation of the same.
 - (b) Greater use of Roof Bolting/Stitching methods of roof support by quick setting cement capsules.
 - (c) Introduction of mechanized drilling by roof bolting machines thereby
 - i) improving quality of roof bolting as well as
 - ii) reducing exposure of roof bolting crew to hazard of roof fall
 - (d) Introduction of resin grouted roof bolts in water seams.
 - (e) Training of support personnel and Supervisors.
 - (f) Reducing exposure of workman by increasing mechanization through SDLs/LHDs, PSLW and continuous miners.
7. Measures for reduction of accidents in open cast mines were pursued through
 - (a) Implementation of various Codes of practices, Traffic Rules, checking of contractor`s vehicles/equipment by company engineers.
 - (b) Training of Heavy Earth Moving Machinery operators and contractor` workers.
 - (c) Enhancement of safety awareness through publicity and propaganda, safety drives, safety weeks etc.
8. Thrust on training and retraining of workmen, supervisors to increase safety awareness of the workmen. CIL is preparing training films on CD for imparting standardized training in all its training centers.