

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1179
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
MINE DISASTER IN BHATDIH COLLIERY
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has enquired into the mine disaster in lihatdih Colliery under BCCL claiming the lives of around 50 workers;
- (b) if so; the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether alleged negligence on the part of the management in safety matters has been attributed to the said mine collapse;
- (d) if so. the details thereof;
- (e) the action taken/proposed to be taken against the officers responsible for the lapse;
- (f) the details of relief provided to the families of the deceased as well as workers who were injured in the mine disaster; and
- (g) the action taken/proposed to be taken to check such incidents in future?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): A Court of Enquiry has been constituted by the Govt. of India. Ministry of Labour & employment, vide notification No. S.O. 1756(E) dated 12-10-06 to inquire into the causes and circumstances of the accident occurred in lihatdih Mine of Bharal Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) in Jharkhand. in which fifty coal miners lost their lives and four received importable injury. The Court of Enquiry is to submit its report within a period of three months. Based on the findings and recommendations of the Inquiry Report, action will be taken against the persons found responsible for the accident

(f): The total amount of compensation paid to each dependents of the deceased varies from Rs. 8.78 lakhs to Rs. 1 1.06 lakh depending upon the length of service. This covers payment towards ex-gratia. Life Cover. Benevolent fund, funeral expenses. Compensation as per Workmens` Compensation Act, 1923 and Gratuity. This also includes additional ex-gratia of Rs. 3.00 lakhs to each as announced by i lon`blc Minister of Coal and sanction of Rs one lakh announced by Chief Minister of Jharkhand. Besides an ex-gratia payment of Rs 1.00 lakh each from the Prime Minister`s National Relief Fund has also been sanctioned. Besides, payment of Provident Fund through Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO) is being disbursed. Out of 50 deceased, employment to 48 dependents of the deceased workmen had already been given (including two under-aged male dependents have been kept in employment roster and their mothers have been given monetary compensation till they become major). One lady dependent has opted for monetary compensation which will continue till she attains the age of 60 years and one widow will be offered employment pending genuinity of her claim.

(g): following remedial measures are taken by the coal companies to prevent recurrence of such accidents:

- # Promoting participation of workers in safely management.
- # Promoting self regulation by management.
- # Tri-partite and Bi-partite review of safety status at various levels
- # Observance of safely week and safety campaigns.
- # Generating safely aw`areness and information dissemination.
- # National Conference on Safely in Mines.
- # Interaction at different forums with a view to promote safety, health and welfare of persons employed in mines.
- # Introduction to the concept of Risk Assessment, preparation of Safety Management Plan and development of Hmergency Response System.
- # Conducting Safety Audits.
- # facilitating introduction of new technology in mining with low potential risk.
- # Directions have been issued to all subsidiary companies of CIL to review the status of safety of mines and reetification of any infirmity.
- # Safety status of all Degree-III gassy mines are being re-assessed with respect to gas, stowing, method of extraction in practice and other safely aspects.