

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1245
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2006
BLAST IN NAGDA MINE OF BCCL
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the blast that occurred at the Nagda mine of Bharat Coking Coal Limited during September 2006;
- (b) the number of persons died/injured in the said incident and the details of compensation paid to victims and their families so far;
- (c) whether the Government has investigated the causes of explosion in the mine;
- (d) if so, the outcome of said investigation; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such incidents in coal mines?

Answer

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

(a): A major accident took place at Nagda mine of Bhatdih Colliery of Western Jharia Area of BCCL on 6-9-2006 at about 8.00 P.M. (II Shift), in which 50 persons were trapped. The accident occurred in 17th No. Incline, Mahuda bottom seam where Bord and Pillar system of mining and depillaring with sand stowing was in progress. Average production from this incline was about 240 tonnes per day with manpower of 753 on roll and average attendance of about 590. As reported a loud sound was heard from the fan drift of 17th No. Incline at about 8.00 P.M. Three persons (1 Haulage Khalasi & 2 trammers) engaged at '0' level came out of the mine and were found covered with coal dust. There was explosion in the mine.

(b): Fifty workers lost their lives and four received reportable injury at Bhatdih Mine Disaster under Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) occurred on 6-9-2006. The total amount of compensation paid to each dependents of the deceased varies from Rs. 8.78 lakhs to Rs.11.06 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 Hon'ble 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 (CMPF-O) 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.

(c) & (d): A Court of Enquiry has been constituted by the Govt. of India. Ministry of Labour & Employment. vide notification No. S.O. 1756(10 dated 12-10-06 to inquire into the causes and circumstances of the accident occurred in Bhatdih Mine of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) in Jharkhand. in which fifty coal miners lost their lives and four received reportable injury. The Court of inquiry 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.

(e): following remedial measures are taken by the Coal Companies to prevent recurrence of such accidents.

- # Promoting participation of workers in safety management.
- # Promoting self regulation by management.
- # Tri-partite and Bi-partite review of safety status at various levels
- # Observance of safety week and safety campaigns.
- # Generating safety awareness and information dissemination.
- # National Conference on Safety 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 Emergency 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 rectification 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 safety aspects.