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14.	Promotion of cutting edge technologies like Underground Coal Gasification (UCG), Coal Bed Methane (CBM), Coal Mine Methane (CMM), Coal to Liquid (CTL) etc.	Government has already permitted CBM operations on commercial lines and 26 blocks have been allotted to various entrepreneurs. Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH) under Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas regulates the CBM operations. For CMM, coal companies are taking action to extract methane gas from the existing mines and a demonstration project in association with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/Global Environmental Fund (GEF) is under implementation in one of the mines of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL). Government has notified coal gasification (surface and underground) and coal liquefaction as end uses under captive mining policy.

There are other recommendations that require wider consultations which are in progress.

Coal mines in Chhindwara

†1091. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the Vishnupuri Coal Mines of Chhindwara district, roof-fall or any other type of accident took place on 18th May, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the work of coal mining has since been resumed in the above coal mines as usual, if so, the date on which the mining work has been resumed there alongwith the details of coal produced;

(d) the reasons for accident, the extent of losses suffered by it and the persons who were responsible for such a mishap; and

(e) the measures being taken to avoid the recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An accident had occurred on 18th May, 2008 (third shift) in Vishnupuri mine No.2 of Pench Area, Chhindwara District due to roof fall. After completion of the face support, 3 dresser-cum-drillers were engaged for drilling holes at 18 Dip/7 level face for coal preparation. At that moment, a roofmass measuring 14 meter x 4 meter with the thickness varying from 0.4 meter to 1.7 meter collapsed all of a sudden burying all the three persons engaged in drilling operation at the face, causing fatal injuries.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Coal mining in Vishnupuri mine No. 2 resumed in another district from 22.5.2008 at an average rate of production of 60-80 tonnes per day. Production from the panel where accident took place resumed its operation from 3.6.2008 at an average rate of production of 50-60 tonnes per day.

(d) The reasons for the accident and the extent of losses are as under:-

- (i) Roof fall on account of hidden slip in the overlying strata.
- (ii) The immediate roof was water charged with coarsed grained sand stone.
- (iii) There was a loss of production to the extent of 1650 tonnes during the period the mine was partially affected.

Prime facie, the following persons have been held responsible for the accident on the basis of the interim inquiry by Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) of the Coal Company :-

- (i) Shri S.B. Yadav, Sub Area Manager
- (ii) Shri V.P. Ghattuwar, Manager
- (iii) Shri Nirmal Kumar, Under Manager
- (iv) Shri M.R. Ansari, Shift Overman
- (v) Shri Tapas Pal, Mining Sirdar

(e) To avoid recurrence of such incidents, The following measures have been taken:-

1. Roof support with resin bolting has already been started
2. Reframing of Systematic Support Rules (SSR) in the mine after fresh determination of Rock Mass Rating and its implementation.
3. Use of long roof bolts (1.65 M) with full column resin
4. Re-training of frontline supervisors and support crew in roof bolting
5. Regular anchorage testing for checking effectiveness of supports installed
6. Strengthening of supervision of mining activities including roof support
7. Increased frequency of mine inspection by mine officials and DGMS officials.

Pilferage of coal

1092. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the rampant pilferage of coal from the mines;
- (b) if so, the steps being taken to prevent such pilferages; and

(c) the details of the public distribution system for fuel coal to the people in the neighbouring areas of coal mines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) Pilferage/theft of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely from siding coal stock, railway rakes, loaded tripping trucks/dumpers etc.