

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the advertisement of selling this building appeared in the Daily Newspaper and the website in Germany; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH):** (a) and (b) The Embassy of India shifted from Bonn to Berlin in October 1999 following a decision of the German Government to shift the capital to Berlin. A temporary office dealing with residual consular and administrative matters was maintained in Bonn up to June 2002, and was wound up with the opening of the new Consulate General of India in Munich. Consequently, the former Indian Embassy building in Bonn has been lying vacant since July 2002. The Government has received some suggestions from Indian organization in the German State of North-Rhine Westphalia, where Bonn is located, regarding possible alternate use of the premises. However, since it was not found possible to put the building to an efficient use in a cost effective manner, the Government of India has decided to sell the property in the best interests of the Government. A number of other countries already sold their diplomatic properties that were located in Bonn.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The advertisement for sale of the Bonn property appeared in the local newspapers on April, 15 and 17, 2005 inviting bids by May 17, 2005. The advertisement was also put on Embassy's website. The submission deadline was extended to June 17, 2005 following requests from prospective buyers for more time. The sale of the property had been advertised for obtaining sealed competitive bids.

### **Miners killed in coal mine accidents**

†\*162. **SHRI AJAY MAROO:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of miners killed in accident during the last one year in coal mines operating under subsidiary coal companies of Coal India Limited in Jharkhand;

(b) the findings of the Enquiry Committees constituted for conducting enquiry into such accidents from time to time;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[4 August, 2005]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) the number of officials found responsible for such accidents against whom action has been taken; and

(d) the steps taken to check such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The number of miners who lost lives in accidents in 2004 and in 2005 (up to June 2005) in the coal mines of the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited in Jharkhand State is given below:

Company	2004		2005 (up to June)	
	Fatal Accidents	Fatalities	Fatal Accidents	Fatalities
Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)	1	1	1	1
Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCCL)	11	12	8	9
Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)	11	11	5	18*

Note: Subject to reconciliation with DGMS.

\*Includes recent disaster at Bansgara Incline of CCL.

(b) to enquire into the recent accident at Bansgara incline of Central Saunda Colliery of CCL where 14 miners lost their lives, Ministry of coal has constituted a committee under chairmanship of CMD, CMPDIL for holding a Departmental enquiry. The Committee has since submitted its report. The main findings of the report are as under.

- (i) the accident was caused by fall of a large area of standing roof in the decoaled area leading to air blast. The presence of weak zone of strata might have contributed to the fall of roof which also resulted in inrush of water through the caved area from the water logged old working of overlying seam. Ineffective dewatering of the overlying seam before and during depillaring is the major cause for this inundation.
- (ii) The acts of negligence and dereliction of duty have taken place on the part of CCL officials.

Departmental enquiry into each fatal accident is taken up by the Internal Safety Organisation (ISO) of the subsidiary companies. The findings suggest that human error was the main reason for accidents in most

cases. Some officials as well as workmen have been found responsible and have been/being suitably punished.

(c) The status of completion of ISO inquiry, administrative enquiry for awarding of punishment, the number of officials found responsible for such accidents and the status of action taken against them is given below:

Company	No. of Accidents.	No. of cases where Inquiry completed	Responsibility	Action Taken															
				Penal Action Completed								Administrative action in progress							
				Admin-ISO															
Istrative Exe Sup WM C/W Exe Sup WM C/W Exe Sup WM C/W																			
ECL	1	1	NA	Human failure by deceased worker resulted in the accident															
BCCL	11	8	1	2	3	2	4	0	1	1	0	2	2	1	4				
CCL	11	7	1	4	5	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	5	1	0				

Note: Status as on 30th June, 2005. Number of accidents is subject to reconciliation with DGMS.

Legend: Exe-Executive, Sup-Supervisors, WM-Workmen, C/W-Contractor's Worker

(d) To improve the status of safety in mines, following steps have been taken by the coal companies:—

- Thrust on training and retraining of workmen, supervisors and managers to increase safety awareness.
- Issue of guidelines for safer operations in identified thrust areas through circulars.
- 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.
- National Safety Awards.
- Interactions 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.
- Facilitating introduction of new technology in mining with low potential risk.