

Problem of land acquisition by CIL in Orissa

623. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Limited is facing serious problem for land acquisition in Orissa and other States as the land owner are not getting the compensation and employment in time;

(b) the number of cases of payment of compensation and employment pending for more than one year in the States mine-wise; and

(c) by when they would get the compensation and employment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Coal India is not facing any problem in acquisition of land in coal bearing states including Odisha. However, there is problem in taking physical possession of land in some places due to demand of higher rate of land compensation and employment beyond the States' notified rates and provisions of CIL R&R Policy respectively.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Guidelines for coal mines

624. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any guidelines for the safety of coal mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the guidelines are reviewed from time to time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. There are specific written guidelines for safety of coal mines and the persons employed there in. The Safety guidelines being adopted in Indian coal mines are governed by the Mines Act-1952, Coal Mines Regulations 1957, Mines Rules 1955, Standing Orders & by-law framed there under and Technical Circulars issued by Directorate General Mines Safety (DGMS) time to time.

Indian Mining legislation has been amended/modified several times to accommodate the different articles proposed through various ILO Conventions and recommendations depending up on necessity technology and mechanization and ratified by the Government. National Conference on Safety in mines is also being held from time to time in India to adopt various innovative ideas and concepts developed or envisaged over time both in India as well as in different International forums, Organizations and developed countries for further improvement of the safety standards in Indian mines. Standardization of equipment, tools and appliances used in coal mines is being done as per laid down procedure of Bureau of Indian Standards and subsequently approved by DGMS after satisfying different parameters.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The coal mines safety guidelines are being reviewed regularly as per change in technology, statute, guidelines or safety circulars issued for safety in coal mines and after discussion in various forums as follows :

1. Discussions in the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines under Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Coal by convening meeting twice a year with all coal companies including private coal companies, DGMS, Ministry of Labour & Employment and National Trade Union Leaders. (35 meetings of this Committee have been held so far.)
2. Regular inspections of mines being conducted by the DGMS to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and safe operating procedures. Safety Policy for ensuring safety in mines and implementation of which is closely monitored at several levels.
3. Establishing a structured multi-disciplinary Internal Safety Organisation to assist the management at various levels related to safety matters.
4. Apex Safety Board representatives of trade unions, DGMS and CMD's of subsidiary coal companies are meeting regularly under chairmanship of Chairman, CIL.

Supply of coal to thermal power plants

625. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state: