

- vii) Preparation of Agreed list as well as list of Officials with Doubtful Integrity (ODI).

Collapse of coal mines in West Bengal

1258. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Asansol-Barakar and surrounding colliery areas in West Bengal are subsiding day by day and coal mines often collapse in the area;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government would carry out any survey on the cause of subsiding and chalk out preventive measures to save the people and the land of the area;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During pre nationalized period, due to unscientific mining and indiscriminate reduction of coal pillars with improper sand filling of the decoaled voids in UG mining, many of the areas caved in causing serious problem of subsidence. In total, 139 locations have been identified as unstable in the lease hold area of ECL. Later on High Powered Central Committee (HPCC) included two more locations on the recommendations of directorate-General of Mines Safety (DGMS).

(c) and (d) In December 1996, Government of India constituted a High Power Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary (Coal) with members from Govt of Bihar, West Bengal, Planning Commission, DGMS, Ministry of Labour, Chairman CIL, CMDs of BCCL, ECL, CMPDIL etc, Subsequently Ministry of Coal suggested CMPDIL to study in depth problems of subsidence and fire in BCCL and ECL. The study was conducted by CMPDIL and subsequently the Master Plan was prepared which includes rehabilitation packages for affected people and steps for stabilizing the subsidences.

The approved Master Plan has provision for rehabilitation of all affected people in the leasehold of ECL with specific R and R package. The Asansol-Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA), a State Government agency, has been identified as the implementing agency on behalf of the Government of West Bengal. Accordingly, ADDA has started the job of demographic survey, valuation of structures, preparation of photo identity cards, (PIC) etc.

(e) In view of above, does not arise.