

(c) During the last five years, there was one incidence that occurred in Sendra Basjora OC mine of BCCL in which three lives were lost due to sudden slide of hot material from 1st OB bench. No property loss has been reported.

(d) As mentioned in the reply to part (b): above, Government has approved a Master Plan to address the issue of fire, subsidence, rehabilitation and diversion of surface infrastructure. Jharia Rehabilitation Development Authority (JRDA) has been identified as the implementing agency for rehabilitation of people from the affected areas of JCF. Out of 595 sites demographic surveys in 324 sites have been completed. 2352 houses have been completed for shifting people from endangered areas to Belgaria Township and 1132 families have been shifted. BCCL with the approval of Ministry of Coal has issued NoC to transfer 849.68 acre land belonging to them in non coal bearing area and 86.44 acres of land at Bhuli township to JRDA for taking up construction of houses for rehabilitation.

Development of used areas by MCL

312. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state: whether it is a fact that the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) is not filling the vacant places left after coal exploitation and also not doing sufficient plantations as per the requirement and as a result of which there is serious water and air pollution in Talcher, Jharsuguda, Sambalpur and Brajrajnagar areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): No, Sir. Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) is filling the mined out coal mining area as per the backfilling/reclamation programme provided in the approved project report and Environment Management Plan (EMP) of the concerned mines. As on 31.03.2012 in MCL command area, total area excavated is 3947.86 Ha out of which 2195.27 Ha has been backfilled.

MCL is regularly carrying out plantation/afforestation, through State Government Forest Corporation. As on 31.03.12, 47.58 lakh tree saplings have been planted.

Further, MCL is taking necessary mitigatory measures and routine monitoring is being done in all projects of MCL and all the parameters of air and water are within the prescribed/permissible limits. Odisha State Pollution Control Board and Regional Office of Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) are regularly monitoring the coal mines of MCL in this regard.

New coal blocks

313. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has taken steps to identify new coal