

GOYAL): (a) Regular appointee in the post of Chairman cum Managing Director (CMD) of Eastern Coalfields Ltd., (ECL) was there till 31.05.2015. After his superannuation the additional charge of CMD, ECL was given to Director (Finance), Coal India Ltd., (CIL) w.e.f. 01.06.2015. Subsequently w.e.f. 22.11.2016, CMD, WCL has been entrusted with the additional charge of CMD, ECL.

(b) Safety is not compromised due to absence of regular CMD. Statutory provisions as laid down in the Mines Act, 1952, the Mines Rules-1955, the Coal Mine Regulations-1957 and Byelaws and Standing Order framed there-under, are being complied with. ECL has a structured multi-disciplinary Internal Safety Organization (ISO) to assist the line management at various levels in matters related to mine safety.

(c) and (d) On the basis of enquiry conducted by Internal Safety Organisation of ECL, Manager of Rajmahal Opencast Project has been suspended and charge sheet has been issued to two other Officers namely Assistant Manager of the shift and general shift of the project. Further, enquiry is being conducted by DGMS and a high power committee has also been constituted by Coal India Limited (CIL) to enquire into the accident and actions will be taken against the persons responsible based on the findings of the enquiry.

(e) Action against the outsourcing company will be taken based on the findings of the enquiries.

Action taken in Lalmatia coal mine accident

319. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU:

SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI SANJIV KUMAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a coal mine had caved in at Lalmatia mines in Jharkhand on December 29, 2016 wherein 23 workers were buried, if so, the details thereof along with the number of casualties;

(b) whether there has been laxity on the part of mine management, which resulted in country's worse mine disasters;

(c) whether any investigation has been conducted and if so, the details and action taken thereon and status of rescue operations;

(d) the details of compensation paid to dependents of deceased; and

(e) the number of employees of ECL and outsourcing agency and locals who were killed/missing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Coal mine accident due to unprecedented movement of solid bench had occurred at Rajmahal Opencast Project on 29.12.2016 where 23 workmen were reported to be buried under the Overburden (OB)/Slide out of which till now 18 bodies could be recovered.

(b) Prompt action was taken by the mine management with co-operation from District Authorities, Local Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) members, teams of National Disaster Relief Force (NDRF) and rescue teams of the coal company. Rescue and recovery work was started at the shortest possible time under the guidance of senior management of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) and 18 dead bodies could be recovered within three days' time. Further recovery operations were to be suspended due to movement in strata. A detailed plan has been drawn to remove the top overburden through benching. This plan has been put up to experts for vetting. After vetting by experts, approval of Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS) will be taken for resuming the recovery operations.

(c) On the basis of enquiry conducted by Internal Safety Organisation of ECL, Manager of Rajmahal Opencast Project has been suspended and charge sheet has been issued to two other Officers namely Assistant Manager of the shift and general shift of the project. Further, enquiry is being conducted by DGMS and a high power committee has also been constituted by Coal India Limited (CIL) to enquire into the accident and actions will be taken against the persons responsible based on the findings of the enquiry.

(d) Workmen compensation with amount ranging from ₹ 07.5 lakhs to ₹ 08.96 lakhs has been deposited with Employee Compensation Commissioner Cum Presiding Officer, Labour Court Deogarh. In addition to this amount, ECL will pay a compensation of ₹ 5 lakhs each to the next of the kin of the deceased. Further Jharkhand Government has also declared a compensation of ₹ 2 lakhs each to the next of the kin of the deceased.

(e) 23 employees of M/s Maha Laxmi Infra Pvt. Ltd., who were reportedly engaged in the workings at the time of incident, were reported to be trapped in the overburden slide. No employee of ECL was involved in the accident.

Steps taken to prevent coal mine accidents

320. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware about the accidents in coal mines and loss of human lives in those accidents;