

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2192**  
ANSWERED ON 15.03.2021

**SAND STOWING FOR MINE SAFETY**

2192: SHRI BHASKAR RAO NEKKANTI

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many mines in Odisha under Mahanadi Coalfields, a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL) are closed due to sand stowing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action/measures taken by Government;
- (c) by when the balance back filling work would be completed; and
- (d) whether there is any detailed plan formulated to complete the back filling in these two underground mines?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF MINES, COAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS  
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) to (d): Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the delay in sand stowing work and accordingly Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) management has been asked for stabilization of the identified underground workings of Deulbera & Handidhua Collieries, Talcher, Odisha. The pace of work is lagging behind schedule due to hindrances, opposition and non-cooperation from the local tenants/villagers and not having surface rights and access over such identified areas. The said areas are not accessible from underground also as the voids have already been filled with water

As per the proposed action program, the sand stowing will be completed by December 2022, subject to clearance of hindrances and availability of land from individual land owners for the sand stowing job and co-operation of state and local authorities.

All open cast mines are planned and operated as per the approved mining plan including mine closure plan, wherein time frame for filling pits of open cast mines are specified and usually such operation starts within about 5 years of mine commissioning and continue throughout the life of the mine.

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