

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2759
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2022**

BACKFILLING TO PREVENT SOIL SUBSIDENCE

2759. Shri Muzibulla Khan:

Will the Minister of **COAL** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any delay in backfilling and stowing for mine safety to prevent soil subsidence over the non-working underground coal mines in Talcher coalfields area by MCL;
- (b) by when the balance backfilling work will be completed; and
- (c) whether there is any detailed plan formulated to complete the backfilling in these mines?

ANSWER

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

(a): MCL Management has put all sincere efforts for stabilization of the identified underground workings of Deulbera & Handidhua Collieries by sand stowing. Since, the surface land is not vested with MCL and it belongs to private/Govt. land unauthorizedly occupied. There are obstructions from the tenants/locals in renting their land for drilling/ sand stowing / sand transportation to site. Necessary intervention and support are being taken from the State administration and local authorities to sort out issues arising out of stabilization activities.

(b): In Handidhua Colliery, stowing of 75% of total assessed quantity in the identified areas has been completed. Out of the remaining quantity, 18% is in hindrance area and 7% in hindrance free area. Tentative time of completion of stowing at Hindrance free area is 3.5 years. In Deulbera Colliery, stowing of 36% of total assessed quantity in the identified areas has been completed. Out of the remaining quantity, 31% is in hindrance area and 33% in hindrance free area. Tentative time of completion of sand stowing at Hindrance free area is about six years.

(c): Yes, Sir. MCL has engaged the three expert scientific agencies namely CMPDI, IIT-Kharagpur and CIMFR-Dhanbad to assess the stability of workings and efficacy of sand filling. Based on their recommendation, sand is stowed by Hydro-pneumatic method by drilling 300mm boreholes and pushing sand with water and air under pressure.
