

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 45
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023**

FIRE AT JHARIA COALFIELDS OF JHARKHAND

45. Smt. Mahua Maji:

Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any effective measures to extinguish the underground fire burning for a long time in the Jharia coalfields of Jharkhand in the last five years;
- (b) if so, the extent of success achieved in extinguishing the fire;
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether the Government will assign the responsibility of dealing with this critical situation to the National Disaster Management Authority to save the burning of approximately two billion tons of precious cooking coal, to protect the lives and properties of local residents as well as protect the environment by considering this a national disaster?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES

(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) to (c): Jharia Master Plan was approved on 12th August 2009 by the Govt. of India to deal with fire and rehabilitation of people residing in fire and subsidence affected areas. BCCL has adopted the method of digging out fire through excavation.

The fire is being extinguished by digging out through excavation. To monitor the success of this process, BCCL is periodically conducting survey by National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad for delineation of surface fire. As per the survey report of 2020-21, the surface fire area has been reduced to 1.80 sq. km spread over 27 locations from previous surveyed area of 3.26 Sq Km spread over 34 locations in year 2017-18.

Out of these 27 locations, fire at 16 locations is being dealt by fire dealing projects through excavation and balance locations are being dealt by blanketing.

(d): Presently, no proposal is under consideration for assigning responsibility to National Disaster Management Authority.
