

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 678
ANSWERED ON 29.07.2024**

Accidents in coal mines

678 Dr. V. Sivadasan:

Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of accidents in the coal mines in the country in the last five years, year-wise data;
- (b) whether any inquiry was ordered into these accidents and if so, details of preliminary report;
- (c) whether any compensation was paid for the death or injury of the workers; and
- (d) details of steps taken to ensure that such accidents do not occur again in future?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

(a) : The number of accidents in coal mines during the last five years (2019-2023) are as under:

Year	No. of Fatal accident	No. of Serious accident
2019	51	193
2020	48	118
2021	43	188
2022	24	179
2023	37	117

(b) : All fatal accident cases were enquired to ascertain the causes and circumstances leading to these mine accidents. The law enforcing agency/regulatory authority under the Mines Act- 1952 i.e. the Directorate General of Mine Safety (DGMS) conducted the statutory inquiry and suggested the corrective measures required to be taken to prevent a recurrence. Further, all fatal and serious accidents were also inquired by the Mine Manager or any Assistant Manager authorized by the Mine Manager under reg. 42(10) of Coal Mines Regulations (CMR-2017) and by the Safety Officer of the respective mine under Reg. 44(1c) of CMR- 2017. The Internal Safety Organization (ISO) of each company also conducted enquiry in case of fatal accidents. The causes and circumstances leading to those mine accidents have been identified through these investigations.

The details of action taken against the persons found responsible for the accidents that occurred in coal mines during 2019-2023 are as follows:

Action Taken	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Sub-Total
Prosecution	24	38	28	19	10	119
Suspension	32	18	22	4	12	88
Increment withheld	32	38	34	26	28	158
Removed from service	10	10	11	6	14	51
Removed from statutory post	0	1	0	0	0	1
Demoted by Management	4	5	4	5	3	21
Censured	11	20	7	13	10	61
Promotion withheld	1	1	0	4	1	7
Warned by Management	26	29	35	18	25	133
Grand Total						639

(c) : Compensation as per applicable law i.e. the Employees Compensation Act- 1923 (Principal Act amended as of date) was paid to the next of kin of deceased employees in case of fatal accident. Further, compensation as per applicable law was also paid in case of serious injury to the employee. Apart from this, Ex-gratia & Special ex-gratia etc are paid.

(d): Coal mines under Ministry of Coal are governed by the Mines Act, 1952 and rules and regulations framed thereunder. Mines Act, 1952 is administered by DGMS by way of development of suitable legislation, rules, regulations, standard and guidelines, inspections, investigation of accidents, awareness activities, formulating risk management plans.

Apart from compliance of the statutory provisions under the Mines Act, 1952, the Mines Rules- 1955, the Coal Mine Regulations- 2017 and Bye Laws & Standing Order framed there under the following steps are being taken to reduce occurrence of such accident in mines:

1. Preparation and implementation of Site Specific Risk Assessment based Safety Management Plans (SMPs)
2. Preparation and implementation of Principal Hazards Management Plans (PHMPs)
3. Formulation and compliance of Site-specific Risk Assessment based Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
4. Conducting Safety Audit of mines through multi-disciplinary Safety Audit teams.
5. Adoption of the state-of-the art mechanism for Strata Management
6. Monitoring of mine environment
7. Specific Safety measures for OC mines, such as:

- Use of eco-friendly Surface Miners in place of blast free safe mining.

- Formulation and implementation of Mine-specific Traffic Rules.
- Training on Simulators to HEMM operators.
- Dumpers fitted with Proximity Warning Devices, Rear view mirrors and camera, Audio-Visual Alarm (AVA), Automatic Fire Detection & Suppression system etc.
- Ergonomically designed seats & AC Cabins for operators' comfort.
- GPS based Operator Independent Truck Dispatch System (OITDS) and Geo-fencing in some large OCPs for tracking movement of HEMMs inside OC mine.
- Lighting arrangement using high mast towers for increasing level of illumination.

8. Training on Mine Safety:

- Initial and Refresher training & On-the-Job Training as per statute.
- Training on Simulators to HEMM operators.
- Skill up-gradation of frontline mine officials on continual basis on various topics.
- Sensitization of all employees including Members of Safety Committees and contractual workmen on a regular basis.
- Various training programmes for enhancement of knowledge of mine executives.
- Training on Risk Management by SIMTARS accredited executives

9. Mine Safety Inspection:

- Round-the-clock Supervision of all mining operations by adequate number of competent & statutory Supervisors and mine Officials.
- Regular Inspection by Workmen Inspectors appointed in each mine.
- Surprise back shift mine Inspections by mine and area level officials.
- Regular mine Inspection by officials of the Internal Safety Organization.
- Periodic mine Inspections by senior officials.
