

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3201
TO BE ANSWERED ON 23.3.2020**

NON-COMPLIANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS BY CIL

3201. SHRI SANJAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to the latest Comptroller and Auditor General Report 2019 the Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries, have not followed the prescribed environmental safeguards;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) steps taken by Government to combat this issue?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (b) : According to the latest CAG report of 2019 on "Assessment of Environmental Impact due to Mining Activities and its Mitigation in Coal India Limited and its Subsidiaries", some deficiencies have been observed such as non-existence of corporate environment policy approved by their Board of Directors as mandated by MoEF&CC, instances of non-compliance of environmental regulations, short utilization of CSR amount as mandated by MoEF&CC during 2013-18, slow implementation of Jharia Master Plan & lack of expertise in BCCL to assess the extent of underground fire, no progress in implementation of solar projects and inadequate monitoring mechanism for environmental activities.

(c): Various remedial measures taken for strengthening the environmental management system to ensure environmental sustainability in mining operations are as under:

- CIL and its Subsidiaries have adopted their Environmental Policy reflecting principles of sustainable development with thrust on Environmental and care and protection
- Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) are installed in large mines of CIL. 18 numbers of CAAQMS are already installed by CIL and many more will be installed in coming years.
- Biological reclamation is carried out as per the EIA/EMPs and Mine Closure Plans progressively during operation of the mine. Annual biological reclamation targets are achieved through close monitoring. Progress of reclamation is monitored through Satellite surveillance.
- Subsidiaries of CIL have offered abandoned Quarries for fly ash dumping as per the guidelines issued by MoEF&CC/CPCB/SPCB.

- CIL & its subsidiaries have adopted Corporate Social responsibility as a strategic tool for sustainable growth. CSR fund is allotted and spent as per provisions of Companies Act, 2013.
- Appropriate actions under Jharia Master Plan are being taken by BCCL and the concerned authorities of State. The progress in implementation of Master Plan is monitored by HPCC constituted by MoC. NRSC (National Remote Sensing Centre, ISRO, Dept. of Space Hyderabad) has surveyed the surface fire and submitted a study report in 2018 showing area under fire is reduced to 3.28 sq. Km. from 8.9 sq. Km. Till date, 7714 houses have been constructed by BCCL and 4084 BCCL families shifted, construction of 8138 houses are in progress. Jharia Rehabilitation and Development Authority (JRDA), State Govt. authority has constructed 6352 houses and 2152 families have shifted.
- The monitoring mechanism in CIL and its subsidiaries includes field visit on regular basis and meetings through video-conferencing with all subsidiary companies for enhancement of compliance status in their mines.
- CIL also engaged ICFRE for auditing various mines towards their compliance status in respect to EC stipulations.
- CIL & its Subsidiaries have developed an internal monitoring mechanism for monitoring of compliance of EC/FC conditions and also created a dedicated Sustainable Development Cell.
- Ministry of Coal (MoC) monitors the status of compliance of EC conditions and environmental monitoring reports of mining companies through review meetings at regular intervals.
- Ministry of Coal has also launched **Star Rating System** of mines to incentivize the mine operators towards self-regulation on environment care and protection.
