

No. 22022/01/2014-CRC-II
Government of India
Ministry of Coal

New Delhi, Dated : 29th April, 2015

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject : Minutes of the 39th meeting of Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines held on 13.3.2015 at New Delhi.

Sir,

The undersigned is directed to forward a copy of Minutes of the 39th meeting of the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines held on 13.3.2015 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) Coal in New Delhi for information /necessary action. Copy of the above minutes has also been put on the website of this Ministry i.e. <http://coal.nic.in>.

It is requested that the ATR may please be furnished to this Ministry ATR as per time schedule as mentioned in the minutes of meeting by e-mail (address: socrc.moc@nic.in) and Fax: 011-23382269.

Encl. As above.

Yours faithfully,


(A.K. Mandal)

Under Secretary to Govt. of India

To:

All the members of the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines (As per distribution list):

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister of State for Coal
2. Sr. PPS to Secretary (Coal)
3. PPS to Addl. Secy (Coal)
4. PS to Adviser(Projects)
5. PS to Director (Technical)

Copy also to:

6. ✓ Technical Director, NIC, Ministry of Coal with the request to put the Minutes of the 39th Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines on the website of this Ministry.

**Minutes of the 39th Meeting of the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines under the
Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) Coal
held on 13th March, 2015**

The 39th meeting of the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines was held on 13th March, 2015 in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Piyush Goyal. Hon'ble Minister of State (I/C) Coal.

The list of participants is at Annexure.

Before starting the proceedings, two minute silence was observed in memory of those who laid down their lives for the cause of Coal Industry since the last meeting of the Standing Committee.

Advisor (Projects), requested Hon'ble Minister to address the Committee.

2. Welcoming the members of the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines, Hon'ble Minister mentioned that at least two meetings should be held in a year but due to paucity of time after his taking over the first meeting could be held only now. However, all the efforts will be made to hold two meetings now onwards in a year. He further desired to hold the next meeting either in Kolkata or at Ranchi.

3. In his address, Hon'ble Minister of Coal emphasized on 'zero tolerance' for breach of workers' safety and said that all efforts must be made to ensure that there would be no compromise on workers safety. In view of the target of 1 billion tonnes for coal production in India, standards of safety must be improved further. He clarified that high production level must be achieved without compromising workers' safety and health.

Citing the examples of the fail-safe risk mitigation systems being adopted very successfully in highly dangerous and hazardous industries such as nuclear power plants and space missions, he desired that all coal companies should also adopt the best risk mitigation system to achieve zero harm /potential in all coal mines of the country by joint endeavour of workmen, trade union and management. Citing the figures of 48 fatalities in CIL in between 38th and 39th meeting of the Standing Committee on safety in coal mines, he desired that all steps should be taken for achieving "Gold standards" i.e. best standards for safety in coal mines so that India could set such standards in Coal Mines Safety.

Confirmation of the minutes of 38th Meeting :

4. The minutes of the 38th Meeting of the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines held on 28th January, 2014 were confirmed.

Hon'ble Minister then requested members of the Standing Committee to present their views one by one, having relevance to improvement in Standard of Safety and Health of the Mine operations and workers.

The views and suggestions of Trade Union leaders are as under:

5. Shri K. C. Patra, President, Odisha Coal Mines Labour Federation & H.M.S. mentioned that CIL, SCCL & NLC had their own setup for monitoring of Safety norms but no such set up was existing for mines in private sector. There should be zero Tolerance policy on the front of Safety for both PSUs & Private sector. There is acute shortage of Medical Doctors in the Dispensaries of CIL. In order to reduce the shortage of medical personnel, he requested to examine the possibility of enhancement of retirement age limit of the medical officers from 60 years to 62 years as being followed in Central govt. He also suggested that equal importance should be given to regular and contract workers on the issue of Safety standards. He raised concern that the safety budget was under utilised in the companies and urged that the safety budget should be prepared judiciously.

6. Shri S Q Zama, Secretary General, INMF(INTUC) mentioned that about 70% of the Coal production was coming through out-sourcing and this figure was likely to increase in coming years if Coal India was slated to achieve 1 billion tonnes by the year 2019-20.

He further mentioned that several discussions had been held earlier on the issue of ex-gratia payment & employment to the dependents of the deceased contractor workers who dies in a mine accident but till date no circular was issued in regard to removing the discrimination between regular and contractual workers. He also demanded ex-gratia amount of Rs. 5 lakh to be paid to the family of the deceased Contractor workers who died in mining accidents, besides employment to the dependants of the deceased contractor workers on par with regular employees. He suggested that all private coal producing companies should be accommodated in the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines so that safety status of their mines was also reviewed. He opined that all recommendations of 11th National Safety Conference should be complied with and a task force constituted for monitoring the status of implementation of these recommendations.

7. Shri B K Rai, Vice President, BMS raised the issue of Human errors /failures that mostly resulted in mine accidents. Hence, joint dialogue between the mine management and trade union representatives on constant basis will greatly improve the safety standards. Decisions taken during all the safety committees at various levels should be implemented. Collaborative efforts between trade unions and management should be continued for improving safety standards

He said that substandard quality safety equipment like cap lamp, Shoes etc. were being provided to the workers and officials which was a serious compromise on the front of safety. He suggested that necessary directions/ guidelines in this regard should be given to all coal companies to provide standard quality safety equipment duly approved by DGMS.

8. Shri Rajendra Prasad Singh, President, Indian National Mine Workers Federation, (INTUC) stressed on collaborative approach between management and trade union representatives for achieving better standard for safety. He demanded that on par with departmental employees, ex-gratia amount of Rs. 5 lakh should be paid to the family of deceased contractor workers who died in mining accidents. He raised the issues of security coverage of explosives' magazine, particularly in the naxalite dominated areas of the country. He suggested that small explosive magazines should be amalgamated and converted into a large magazine so that providing adequate security would be much easier. He drew the attention of DGMS to the danger of safety to the inclines of B&K Area of CCL arising out of heavy blasting in OC mines of DVC, which was operating nearby. He desired the matter should be properly studied by CCL and DGMS **in a month** and resultant action taken.

(Action : DG, DGMS and CMD, CCL)

9. Shri C J Joseph, Secretary(IMWF) AITUC stated that the contractual workmen would be significantly contributing in the augmentation of coal production to a level of 1 BT by 2019-20. Hence, their safety and health issues should be addressed in right earnest. All welfare related recommendations of the Anjan Hill Court of Inquiry should be implemented immediately by CIL. He requested for safety consciousness among the workers should be increased and the Mines Vocational Training Rules-1966 (MVTR-1966) relooked from the aspect of changes that had taken place in the mining industry over the years and also from the view of the present and future technological developments in the mining industry. Emphasis should be given to state-of-art training models for imparting training to workmen and officials.

10. Shri Surender Kumar Pandey, National President, Akhil Bhartiya Khadan Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) informed that the Safety Assessment and Safety Management Plan (SMPs) had been prepared in almost all the mines but its effectiveness had not been ascertained by DGMS as

desired. The rate of ascertaining the efficacy of the safety management plan should be increased by DGMS. He stressed that all aspects of occupational health & safety covered under the recommendation of the 11th National Safety Conference should be implemented.

11. Shri Manas Kumar Mukherjee, Secretary, All India Coal Workers' Federation (CITU) informed that there was a lot of improvement in both CIL and SCCL in safety standard but in regard to private companies a lot was still required to be done for safety of workers. He highlighted that pneumoconiosis was a occupational health hazard which may mistakenly diagnosed as tuberculosis in the hospitals of coal companies as none of the hospitals were properly equipped with pneumoconiosis detection kits. He further stressed that separate protocol and guidelines should be given for rehabilitation of pneumoconiosis patient. He also stressed that no inspection of private coal mines was carried out in the year 2014 by the sub-committee constituted by Ministry of Coal. He stressed on early disbursement of compensation to the dependent of the deceased workmen as per Employee's Compensation Act, 2009.

12. Shri R K Tiwary, Working Committee Member, AIUTUC mentioned that strict implementation of the legal provisions by the front line statutory personnel i.e. Overman and Mining Sirdar would help achieving 'Zero harm' objective. For this, shortage of statutory manpower in Overman and Mining Sirdar categories should be tackled by urgently filling up the vacancies by the coal companies. Mining Sirdar and Overman exams should be conducted by DGMS regularly so that sufficient number of candidates could become available for recruitment. He reiterated the demand for grant of one time relaxation in age by 5 years for mining diploma holders who had crossed the age of selection, as a measure to address the issue of acute shortage of statutory manpower. More numbers of training programmes should be arranged for employees engaged both in operation and in maintenance of advanced technology based facilities. Calendar of different safety committee meetings starting from Pit Safety Committee (PSC) to Corporate Safety meeting should be fixed in advance by the coal companies, and the schedule should be adhered to.

(Action: Chairman, CIL/DG, DGMS and CMDs All Coal Companies)

13. Dr. V P Sinha, Representative of IMMA raised the concern that the shortage of Statutory personal would increase significantly in view of the projected growth of Coal production in the coming years. Hence he stressed on mapping of statutory manpower, keeping in view the project target of coal production.

14. Shri V P Singh, Representative, CMOAI desired that MOC should take up the issue of simultaneous prosecution of officers under IPC with appropriate authority of the state

governments so that State Police did not take action during the pendency of statutory enquiry under the Mines Act- 1952 by DGMS.

(Action: CMD, SCCL)

15. Summing up the deliberation of the meeting, the Minister said that the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines being the highest forum for ameliorating the standards of safety and occupational health of coal mine workers in India, should lay stress on vital policy issues to ensure zero accident objective. Other issues may be taken up for redressal at various other forums between the management and trade union representatives starting from the Pit Safety Committee, Area level safety committee, and subsidiary level safety committee and Corporate level.

Accordingly, the Minister set out a Road map for improvement in safety and occupational health standards of coal mine workers in India aimed at achieving 'Zero Harm' to workers. The task becomes overous in view of the rapid expansion of Indian coal sector for meeting the growing energy demand of the nation, adoption of the state-of-art-technology and collaborative efforts of the management and the trade unions to achieve these production targets. In this context the following mile stones were proposed:-

a) **Mining Shoes:** All CMDs of coal companies are responsible for ensuring the supply of sufficient numbers of mining shoes of proven quality to all employees of coal sector. For uniformity in process of tendering, terms and conditions of supply of quality mining shoes in different coal companies. CMD, SCCL was entrusted with the task of suggesting a blue print for standardisation of the procurement process and submit the same to MOC **within a month.**

(Action: Chairman, CIL/CMDs All Coal Companies/ CMD, SCCL)

b) **Safety Budget:** Coal Companies were advised that a realistic safety budget both under capital and revenue heads should be finalised for the financial year 2015-16, after comprehensive assessment of the procurement of vital safety items so that the allocated budget was fully utilized.

(Action: Chairman CIL/CMDs All Coal Companies)

c) **Health care facilities:** Professionalism should be brought into the health care system of all coal companies so that all hospital and dispensaries of coal companies could cater to the need of both departmental and contractual workers. Director (Technical), Ministry of Coal was advised to organise and coordinate a study of the existing system of healthcare facilities in CIL by experts who could also suggest suitable recommendations to improve the system. The study should be completed **within 6 months.**

(Action: Director ,MOC and D(P),CIL)

d) **Mine Environment:** All existing water sprinklers should be replaced with Mist type water sprinkling system **within a years.**

(Action: Chairman, CIL/ CMDs All Coal Companies)

e) **Phasing out manual loading:** All manual loading district in underground coal mines should be phased out **within a year's time.**

(Action: Chairman, CIL/ CMDs All Coal Companies)

f) **Use of resin bolting:** Wherever necessary, the cement capsules based roof bolting system should preferably be replaced with resin capsules type **within two year's time** as per strata conditions.

(Action: Chairman, CIL/ CMDs All Coal Companies)

g) **Gas Monitoring gadget:** All underground mines should be well equipped with requisite numbers of online gas monitoring/detecting apparatus **within three year's time** covering all gassy mines of degree-III and degree-II in the first phase followed by degree -I mines.

(Action: Chairman, CIL/ CMDs All Coal Companies)

h) **Occupational Diseases diagnosis protocol:** Pneumoconiosis detection kit should be installed in all hospitals **within a period of one year** and rehabilitation and redeployment of affected workmen should be carried out in line with the provisions of safety norms.

(Action: Chairman, CIL/ CMDs All Coal Companies)

i) **Slope Monitoring System:** He advised all CMDs to sort out the operational issues related to procurement of pit / dump slope monitoring systems at the earliest and implement the same in **an years' time.**

(Action: Chairman, CIL/ CMDs All Coal Companies)

j) **Training of mine employees:** Mandatory **1(one) week** training of all the front-line supervisory officials for improving their knowledge, skill and safety awareness.

(Action: Chairman, CIL/All Coal Companies)

k) **Protocol of security of explosive magazine:** A Protocol should be finalised for security of explosive magazine and implemented **within next three months.**

(Action: Chairman, CIL/All Coal Companies)

l) Assured to flag the issue of harassment to the employees and executives of the mine after a mine accident in the Chief Ministers Meeting.

m) **Contractor workers safety :** He advised DGMS to review the VTC rule **within a period of 3 months** in light of the concern shown by the members.

(Action: Chairman, CIL/ DG, DGMS)

n) **Inspection of private mines :** The sub-committee may be re-constituted for inspection of the private coal mines in the country to assess the safety and occupational health status thereat **in next 3 months** time.

(Action: MOC)

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure

List of the participants of the 39th meeting of Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines held on 13.03.2015 in New Delhi.

<u>Sl. No.</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESIGNATION</u>
<u>MINISTRY OF COAL</u>		
1.	Minister of State (I/C) for Coal	- Chairman
2.	Shri A.K. Dubey	Additional Secretary
3.	Shri D.N. Prasad	Adviser (Projects)
4.	Shri Peeyush Kumar	Director (Technical)
5.	Shri Satyajit Ojha	Sr. Manager (Mining), CIL./MOC
<u>TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES</u>		
6.	Shri Rajendra Prasad Singh	President, Indian National Mine Workers Federation, (INTUC)C/o Dhori Colliery, P.O. Bermo, Bokaro (Jharkhand)-825102, (M): 09431164690/ (T): 06549- 220381, (F): 06549- 220272
7.	Shri S.Q. Zama, Ex. MLC	Secretary General. INMF (INTUC) 604, Giripeth, Nagpur-440010 Ph: (R):07122522132/2510355 (F):0712-2540282, (M):9822566212 (E-mail): rkkms007@gmail.com
8.	Shri Surender Kumar Pandey	National President, ABKMS (BMS), Q.No. 1/C-107, PO: Bishrampur Surajpur(Chhatisgarh)(F):07775-264300 (M):09425254623,Mail: surendra_abkms@yahoo.com
9.	Shri Manas Kumar Mukherjee	Secretary, AICWF (CITU), B-9/7, Dhankuni Housing Estate, PO: Dankuni Dist.:Hooghly, W.Bengal Pin:712311, (M): 09836810077 /9433269224 Mail: manas041955@yahoo.com & manas041955@gmail.com (Off):13, RN Mukherjee Road, Coal House, Kolkata-700001
10.	Dr. B.K. Rai	Vice President, BMS, Purana Bazar Pathakhera PO: Pathakhera, Dist. Baitool (M.P.) (Mob): 09425331943(Mail): drbkrai1942@gmail.com
11.	Shri V. P. Singh	President, CMOAI Mob.: 09424141301 E-mail: ypsingh221059@gmail.com

SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED (SCCL)

41. Shri N. Sridhar CMD

NEYVELI LIGNITE CORPORATION LIMITED (NLC)

42. Shri B. Surender Mohan CMD

CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE (CMPDI)

43. Shri A.K. Debnath CMD

JINDAL STEEL

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