

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1685
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2022**

Coal Royalty

1685 SHRIMATI PRAMILA BISOYI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering enhancement of royalty on coal and if so, the time by which the decision on such enhancement is expected to be taken;
- (b) whether there has been a delay in back filling through sand stowing for mine safety to prevent soil subsidence over the non-working underground coal mines of Handidhua and Deulbera in Talcher coalfields area by MCL;
- (c) if so, the time by which the balance back filling work will be completed;
- (c) whether there any detailed plan formulated to complete the back filling in these Under Ground Mines;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

- (a) There is no proposal with the Government for enhancement of Royalty on Coal.
- (b) Back filling is required to prevent surface subsidence in case of complete extraction / depillaring of underground panels. The areas of Talcher under ground mines which have been depillared, have already been stowed and the areas where sand stowing has not been done is standing on pillars so, there is very remote chance of caving causing surface subsidence.

However, because the surface over those mines particularly Deulbera and Handidhua are thickly populated and mines are abandoned, Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) has identified areas having low covers for stabilization by sand stowing even though they are standing on pillars

(c) & (d) As the areas are not physically approachable and mines are sealed, hydro pneumatic sand stowing is being done through boreholes drilled from surface which is in itself a slow process.

In Handidhwa Colliery : 75.18% of total assessed quantity in the identified areas has been completed. Out of the remaining, 18.37 % is in hindrance area and 6.45 % is in hindrance free area where stowing is being done. Tentative time of completion at hindrance free area @ 12,200 m³/year = 3.5 years.

In Deulbera Colliery : 37.71% of total assessed quantity in the identified areas has been completed. Out of the remaining quantity, 30.55% is in hindrance area and 31.73% in hindrance free area where stowing is being done. Tentative time of completion at Hindrance free area @ 18,000 m³/year = 6.9 Years

(e) Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has engaged different scientific agencies for assessing the stability and efficacy of the stability of surface above stowed out identified working as mentioned below:

Year	Name of the scientific agency	Name of the colliery where scientific study done	Outcome of study
From 2010 to 2013	National Geographical Research Institute(NGRI) a sister unit of Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research(CIMFR)	Deulbera	Efficacy of sand stowing in voids of working is good
2019	Indian Institute of Technology(IIT), Kharagpur	Handidhwa	<p>1. Out of the total identified areas in Handidhwa, some of the areas which fall within the HFL of the Nallah, both in bottom & top section and below Handidhwa Village (Bottom section) have been completely stabilized, while the rest of the areas were later on sub-divided into six zones (namely Zone-A, B, C, D, E & F) based on their location in both the sections.</p> <p>2. IIT, Kharagpur in the year 2019 conducted a</p>

			<p>scientific study for assessing the long term stability of underground workings in the zones - C,D,E & F and submitted the report in which it stated that <i>"No Risk to the surface structure from the said underground workings and no further protective measures for stabilization need to be undertaken in few identified areas ."</i></p> <p>3. This report has already been submitted in March 2021 to DGMSS' Office for acceptance.</p>
2019	Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research(CIMFR)	Assessing the long term stability of all underground workings of all mines of Talcher Area	<p>This study is in 3 parts. Study of two part is completed and study of 3rd part is in progress. According to Part-I study report, all workings of Nandira and Talcher mines are declared stable.</p> <p>Other than in identified workings of Deulbera and Handidhua are also declared stable.</p> <p>Further action will be taken accordingly when the report is submitted.</p> <p>Efficacy of the stabilization will be certified by CIMFR during the 3rd stage of study.</p>

The major constraints being faced by MCL are:

- (i) Most of the surface lands are tenancy lands and the tenants obstruct in renting their land for drilling/ sand stowing / sand transportation to site.
- (ii) Even the Govt. lands are encroached by locals and it becomes very difficult to get those vacated.
- (iii) Transportation hours of sand from river to stowing site are allowed from 10 PM to 5 AM only.

Out of 5,85,000 m³ of sand stowing required for Handidhua 4,39,779 m³ has been stowed, out of which 1,07,499 m³ is in hindrance area and 37,722 m³ is balance in hindrance free area.

Similarly for Deulbera mine, out of 3,30,400 m³ of sand stowing 1,24,597.471 m³ sand has been stowed, out of which 1,00,960 m³ is in hindrance area and 1,04,843 m³ is in hindrance free area till 15th July-2022.

However, with the help of state administration, MCL has recorded highest stowing rate since last 5 years as tabulated below and will increase further.

(Data in Cu.m.)

Stowing at	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23 till 15 th July
Handidhua	349	2650	850	1004	3807	1214
Deulbera	786	4002	6104	2014	7144	2489
Total	1135	6652	6954	3018	10951	3703
