

SAFETY MEETING NOTICE

No. 22022/01/2013-CRC-II(Vol.I)
Government of India
Ministry of Coal

New Delhi, 12/1/14. Dated

Office Memorandum

Subject: 38th meeting of Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines.

The undersigned is directed to inform that the 38th meeting of Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Coal is scheduled on **28th January, 2014 at 11.00 A.M. in Kautilya Hall of Hotel Samrat at Chanakya Puri, New Delhi** Agenda for the aforesaid meeting will be circulated shortly and also put on Ministry's web-site (coal.nic.in).

Addressees are requested to make it convenient to attend the meeting.


(A.K. Mahdal)

Under Secretary to the Government of India
Tel. No. 23382269

To:

As per list attached

Copy to:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister of Coal
 1. PS to Hon'ble MoS (Coal)
 2. Sr. PPS to Secretary (Coal)
 3. PPS to Addl. Secy (Coal)
 4. PS to Joint Secretary (Coal)
 5. PS to Director (Technical)

List of the Members of the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines:

1. The Under Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Shram Shakti Bhavan, New Delhi. (Fax No. 2-3718730, 2-3731574, 2-3736011)(Ph:23001123)
2. The Director General of Mines Safety, Directorate General of Mines Safety, Dhabhad (Jharkhabnd) (Fax: 0326-2221027, Dhanbad)(Ph: 0326-2-221000)
3. The Chairman, Coal India Ltd., 10-Netaji Subhas Road, Kolkata
4. The Chairman/Managing Director, Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., Kothagudem Collieries, Khamam Distt (A.P.) (Fax Dir(P&P): 08744-245293)(Ph: 08744-242602,242382)
5. The Chairman/Managing Director, Neyveli Lignite Corporation, P.O.Neyveli (T.N.) (Fax: DGM(Safety):04142-252645,2522646) (Ph: 04142-252492)
6. The Chairman/Managing Director, Bharat Coking Coal Ltd, .Koyala Bhawan, Koyala Nagar, Dhanbad.
7. The Chairman/Managing Director, Eastern Coalfields Ltd., Sanctoria, P.O.Dishergarh, Distt. Burdwan (West Bengal)
8. The Chairman/Managing Director, Mahanadi Coalfield Ltd., Sambalpur, (Orissa).
9. The Chairman/Managing Director, Northern Coalfields Ltd., Singrauli, P.O. Singrauli Collieries, Distt. Sidhi (M.P.).
10. The Chairman/Managing Director, South Eastern Coalfields Ltd., P.B. 60, Seepat Road, Bilalpur (M.P.).
11. The Chairman/Managing Director, Western Coalfields Ltd., Coal Estate, Civil Lines, Nagpur.
12. The Chairman/Managing Director, North Eastern Coalfields, Margrata, Assam.
13. Director (Personnel), Coal India Ltd., 10-Netaji Subhas Road, Kolkata.
14. Director (Technical), Coal India Ltd., Netaji Subhas Road, Kolkata.
15. Executive Director(S&R), Coal India Ltd., 10-Netaji Subhas Road, Kolkata.
16. The Chairman/Managing Director, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute, Gondwana Place Kanke Road, Ranchi (Jharkhand).
17. Managing Director, Jharkhand State Mineral Development Corporation, Khanij Nigam Bhavan,Doranda,Ranchi(Jharkhand)(Fax,No.0651-491916) (Ph:2491841, 2491842, 2491807, 2490767)
18. Managing Director, Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation, Khanij Bhavan, Off 132 Ft Ring Road, Nr. University Ground, Vastrapur., Ahmedabad-380052 (Fax No. 079-27911540)
19. General Manager, The Tata Iron and Steel Company Ltd., Jharia Collieries, Jamadoba-828112, Dhanbad (Jharkhand) (Jamadoba Fax No. 326-2320268)
20. Coal Supdt. and Agent, Damodar Valley Corporation, Bermo Mines, P.O. Bermo, Distt. Bokaro, (Jharkhand) (Kolkata Fax,033-2-3551937 Bermo fax note there) Bermo Ph: 06549-220245)
21. General Manager (Collieries), Steel Authority of India Ltd, IISCO STEEL PLANT, Colliery Complex, Chasnala Colliery, P.O.Chasnala, Dist. Dhanbad-828135 (Jharkhand)) Fax: 0326-2385003)
22. Shri D.N.Abrol, E. D. (RM), Jindal Steel & Power Limited, Jindal Centre, 12. Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi-110066 (Fax No. 26161271)
23. Shri N.C. Mukherjee, E.D., Bengal EMTA Coal Mines Ltd., 6 Poorvi Marg, 3rd Floor, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057. (Delhi fax: 41662808 Tele No. 41074107)
24. Shri N. K. Purohit, Addl. General Manager, Gujarat Industries Power Co. Ltd., (Surat Lignite Power Plant), Village Nani Naroli,Taluka, Mangrol, Distt. Surat-394110 (Fax No. 02629-261073, 261074 & 0265-2231207)
25. Chief of Internal Safety, Rajasthan State Mines & Mineral Limited., SBU & PC LIMESTONE, 8, West Patel Nagar, Circuit House Road, Jodhpur-342011 (Rajasthan) (Fax . 0291-2511029) (Ph:0291-2516199, 2511031, 2515528)
26. Managing Director, J&K Mineral Ltd, 5th Floor, Jawaharlal Nehru Udhyog Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu (Fax No. 0191-2477817)

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27. Shri V. Ravikumar, Vice President, Integrated Coal Mining Ltd., 6, Church Lane, First Floor, Kolkata 700001 (Fax No. 033-22109356) (Ph: 033-22109358 to 62 five lines)
28. Shri T.K. Ghosh, Dy. GM, Panem Coal Mines Limited, G.T. Road (East), Murgasol, Asansol – 713 303 (Fax: 0341-2275436)
29. Shri Rejendra Prasad Singh, Hon'ble M.L.A, President, INFM (INTUC) C/o Dhori Colliery, P.O. Bermo. Distt, Bokaro, (Jharkhand) - 825102
30. Shri S. Q. Zama, M.L.C, General Secretary, Indian National Mines Workers Federation (INTUC) C/o Rashtriya Koyla Mazdoor Sangh, Plot No. 604, Giripeth Post Office, Nagpur-440010 (Fax: 0712-2540282)
31. Shri Ramendra Kumar, Secretary, Indian Mine Workers Federation, P.O.Bhurkunda Colliery, Distt. Hazaribagh (Jharkhand) - 829135
32. Shri A.C.Patra, General Secretary, Orissa Coal Mines Federation, P.O.Bera Colliery-759103, Distt. Angul, (Orissa)
33. Shri S.K.Pandey, General Secretary, Akhil Bhartiya Khadan Mazdoor Sangh (Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh), Qtr No. I-C/107, Post-Bisrampur Colliery, Distt. Sarguja-497226 (Chhattisgarh)
34. Shri Manas Kumar Mukherjee, General Secretary, All India Coal Workers' Federation (CITU), Dankuni Coal Complex Employees' Union, PO. - DCC Township, Dist.- Hooguly, (West Bengal) Pin: 712310
35. Shri Sankar Saha, General Secretary, All India United Trade Union Centre of L/S, 77/2/1, Lenin Sarani, Kolkata-700013
36. Dr. Vinod P. Sinha, President, Indian Mine Managers' Association, 4/2, 'Crystal Kavery' Kavery Road, Near Ravindra Bhawan, Sakchi, Jamshedpur – 831001
37. Shri Shukdev Narayan, President, CMOAI (Apex) BCCL, Kusunda Area, P.O.Kusunda- 828116, Distt. Dhanbad (Jharkhand)

Minutes of the 37th Meeting of the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Coal held on 17th April, 2013

The 37th meeting of the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines was held on 17th April, 2013 in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Sriprakash Jaiswal, Hon'ble Minister of Coal. Shri Pratikbapu Patil, Hon'ble Minister of State for Coal was also present.

The list of participants is given at **Annexure**.

1. At the outset, two minutes 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. This was followed by lighting of the lamp.

Chairman requested Secretary (Coal) to conduct the meeting. Secretary (Coal) requested Hon'ble Minister to address the gathering.

✓2. Welcoming all the members of the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines, Chairman appreciated the efforts being put by the workers, officers, trade union leaders and other stakeholders in enhancing the coal production in the country and emphasised the need for further augmentation of the production in view of rapidly increasing demand for coal to support the energy requirements of the country. However, he expressed his concern over the rise in fatal accidents and fatalities in the year 2012 compared to 2011. He advised coal companies/managements to take special care for avoiding accidents in opencast mines, particularly due to dumper movements. He reiterated the need for continuous monitoring of the implementation of recommendations of various Courts of Inquiry, Safety Conferences by the managements of the coal companies. He urged all the concerned to dedicate themselves to the cause of improving safety on carrying out mining operations in safe manner in order to reach the objective of zero harm to the miners.

(Action All Companies, Trade Unions)

Confirmation of the minutes of 36th Meeting

3. Shri S.Q. Zama, General Secretary, INMF (INTUC) mentioned that he had sent some of his observations for incorporation in the minutes of 36th Meeting but the same was not found to have been incorporated, particularly the issue of treating the death of worker due to heart attack while performing his duty as a mine accident. In response, Adviser (Projects), MoC mentioned that the issues raised in the communication of Shri Zama were examined in the Ministry and it was observed that most of these points were covered in the minutes at different places and the issue of treating death of workers due to heart attack as mine accident was also deliberated upon in detail in the 35th meeting of the Standing Committee where DGMS had categorically mentioned that such cases could be treated as mine accidents as per law and the same was recorded in the minutes of the 35th meeting of the Standing Committee. Hence this point was not repeated in the minutes of the 36th meeting.

4. The minutes of the 36th meeting held on 23/5/2012 as circulated vide OM of even number dated 20/12/2012 were adopted by the members.

ATR on recommendations of the 36th Meeting

5. Action taken report on the recommendations of the 36th meeting and agenda items of the 37th meeting were deliberated upon in detail.

6. Shri Zama reiterated the need for immediate action by all the coal companies to constitute a Joint Committee to decide whether an accident is a mining or non-mining related one to be used on a basis for payment of compensation, as was decided in the 35th meeting of the Standing Committee. Chairman expressed his dissatisfaction over the delay in constitution of a Joint Committee at each company level as decided earlier and directed all the CMDs of the Coal Companies for immediate action in this regard.

(Action All Coal Companies)

7. Regarding ex-gratia payments to the contractors' workers, in case of death in mine accidents, the Union representatives mentioned that the stand of CIL to make the payment through insurance companies was not tenable since CIL did not have the details of the workers being employed by the contractors.

8. Shri R.K. Tiwari, Dy. General Secretary, Bihar Coal Miners' Union (AITUC) mentioned that the contractors' workers were not being subjected to initial and periodical medical examination and no contribution was being made towards their provident fund. Even coal companies could not distribute the Diwali gift due to lack of records.

9. Shri Zama mentioned that contractors' workers should not be discriminated from departmental workers for complying with the statutory provisions. He further mentioned that payment of ex-gratia to contractor workers in case of Chirimiri accidents is yet to be made. He also raised the issue of employment to the dependents of contractor workers. CMD, BCCL mentioned that in case of road accidents, payment of compensation becomes an issue. Secretary (Coal) suggested that let the Joint Committee proposed above may also look into such cases.

10. Secretary (Coal) mentioned that let the Labour Inspector under MoL&E inspect all the mines other than CIL for labour related issues and Director (P), CIL should look into the issue in case of CIL subsidiaries for confirming the status of contractors' workers.

11. Chairman desired that CIL may form a Committee for working out the modalities for payment of ex-gratia in case of death of a contractor worker.

(Action All Coal Companies/MoL&E)

12. Shri Manas Kumar Mukherjee, General Secretary, DCCEU (CITU) observed that the accident statistics as provided in the Agenda Paper were as per DGMS whereas the figures mentioned by the Coal companies were in variance with that of the figures of DGMS. He desired DGMS to clarify the position, DG, DGMS mentioned that after conducting of enquiry in some of the cases, mine accidents turned to be non-mining accidents and therefore difference which needed to be reconciled.

13. DGMS mentioned that about 20% of the persons involved in the mine accidents are found to be contractors workers of which about 40% were in the age group of 18 to 25 and 45% in the age group of 26 to 35. The major reason was perhaps lack of training to these workers. He mentioned that not learning from the accidents occurred earlier was a draw

back and industry needed to introspect and find better systems and take action to avoid accidents.

14. Shri Zama observed that unless DGMS issues clarification on report of accidents by colliery managers in regard to reportable and non-reportable, mining, non-mining, etc., the concern of DGMS cannot be agreed with. In response, DGMS mentioned that type of accident would need to be decided by internal safety organization of the company/enquiry authority and the coal company has to tell who is a contractor worker. However, it is not correct to say that mining accidents are being converted into non-mining accidents. Shri Zama requested CMDs of the coal companies that they should display the type of work covered under contractual basis.

15. Shri Mukherjee mentioned that as per the analysis of DGMS, the figure of contract workers deployed in CIL does not match.

(Action: All Coal companies)

16. Regarding the Issue of Distribution of Diwali gifts to the contractor workers, the latest status was tabled in the meeting. Shri K.C. Patra, Representative of Orissa Coal Mines Federation mentioned that CIL has taken more than one year to decide about the modalities to pay the Diwali gift to the contractor workers. While the decision was implemented in ECL, BCCL, WCL, SECL and MCL, the same is yet to be implemented by CCL, NCL and NEC. He desired to know why only a part of contract workers were paid Diwali gift in CIL and why others are left out. Director (Personnel) CIL mentioned that about 65,000 contractor workers were engaged in various subsidiary companies of CIL during 2010-11 and as per the available records the Companies have taken action in some cases and in other cases the modalities are being worked out and will be paid at the earliest. Chairman expressed his dissatisfaction in the delay in implementation of decision of paying Diwali gifts to contractor's workers and directed the CMDs of CCL, NCL and NEC to take urgent action in the matter.

(Action: Director (P), CIL, CMDs CCL, NCL & NEC)

17. Shri Patra expressed his concern on the rising accidents due to dumpers in opencast mines. He suggested that Coal companies should think about creating separate corridors for coal transportation in the opencast projects and take all proper measures with any additional investment as there is no dearth of resources with coal companies for taking measures for avoiding such accidents.

(Action: All Coal Companies)

18. Regarding the security of explosive magazines, Shri Zama mentioned that at a number of places, security of magazines is not found to be adequate and CIL needs to evolve a foolproof system to avoid pilferage. Shri Sukhdeo Narayan, President, CMOIA (Apex), BCCL reiterated that all the explosive magazines should only be guarded by CISF personnel. CMD, WCL mentioned that to avoid pilferage of explosives, industry may explore the possibility of using safe explosives, commercially known as 'Stem Cell' which cannot be ignited in normal course and such types of explosives are found to be in greater use in South Africa.

(Action: All Coal Companies)

19. Regarding the visit of the sub-Committee of the Standing Committee to the mines of GMDC, the representatives of trade unions suggested that the Report of the Sub-Committee should have been enclosed with the Agenda Note. However, it was observed from the minutes of the 36th meeting of the Standing Committee that the Report of the Sub-Committee was circulated in the 36th meeting itself as a part of the Agenda item.

20. Regarding the issue of Occupational Health Hazards, Shri Zama mentioned that infrastructural facilities in coal companies are not adequate even to diagnose the incidence of diseases like pneumoniocosis. Shri Mukherjee suggested that industry should consider implementing the recommendations of ILO 176 Convention even though MoL&E is not ready to adopt the same.

21. Shri Zama desired to know from Director (P), CIL as to how they are planning to retain medical doctors being posted at different subsidiary companies. He suggested that individual subsidiary companies may be empowered to recruit Medical Doctors as posting of Doctors by CIL at various coalfields is not helping the coal companies to retain them. Director (P), CIL mentioned that the Medical doctors are being given the option to choose the subsidiary companies at the time of posting itself. Till date, CIL has recruited 100 medical doctors out of which 6 have left. However, 46 specialists have joined out of 156 selected. CIL is also tying up with different corporate hospitals to address the medical treatment issues to their employees.

22. Shri K.C. Patra mentioned that outsourcing of health services would not encourage medical doctors joining Coal PSUs as they earn more money in private sector. He suggested that CIL should consider revising the salaries of medical personnel and decentralize their recruitment in line with the existing system of recruitment of para-medical staff by subsidiary companies. Shri R.K. Tiwari mentioned that CIL should consider providing lodging support to the attendants of accident victims particularly in case of those who are referred to AIIMS, New Delhi as attendants are not permitted to stay with the patients.

(Action: CIL)

23. Regarding filling up the statutory manpower vacancies, Shri K.C. Patra mentioned that a number of vacancies in different coal companies are yet to be filled up. Shri R.K. Tiwari mentioned that CIL is not taking action to fill up the statutory vacancies even after qualifying in the statutory examination by their own staff. He referred to the discussions held in the 36th meeting regarding relaxing age limits in cases where the eligible candidates have crossed the prescribed age due to delay in recruitment by CIL for quite sometime earlier. Shri Zama mentioned that in view of the large scale of operations in opencast mines, DGMS should clearly define the jurisdiction of inspection by statutory personnel like overman indicating the extent of area, etc. DGMS mentioned that there is a decline in the number of applicants appearing for statutory examinations and requested coal companies to take care in this regard.

24. Shri Mukherjee mentioned about the need for rationalization of statutory manpower amongst the subsidiary companies of CIL since the existing strength in some of the Companies is more than the requirement whereas there is a gap in some others. Director (Personnel), CIL mentioned that more than 2000 candidates available departmentally who

cleared their Second Class certificate have been promoted to Executive Cadre and about 900 mining engineers have been recruited afresh. However, promotions can only be considered as per available vacancies.

(Action: CIL)

25. The issue of amendment to the provisions of Mines Act was raised by trade union representatives. They expressed the concern that the proposed definitions of owners and the penalties are going to be more stringent and it would be difficult to attract personnel join mining industry.

26. Shri Zama mentioned that DGMS may consider notifying regulations pertaining to opencast mining operations. He raised the issue of parallel action by State authorities against mine officials in case of accidents. Reiterating the communication sent earlier by Ministry of Coal to the coal producing States not to take action against the mine officials parallelly, he requested Secretary (Coal) to look into the matter as State Govts. are continuing taking action against the officials of coal companies. Secretary (Coal) desired CMDs of Coal Companies to mention such incidences in the recent past for taking up the issue with the concerned State Governments once again.

(Action: MoC/CIL/Subsidiary Companies)

27. Shri Zama mentioned that Safety budgets provided by coal companies are not being utilized completely. CMD, CIL mentioned that safety budget is not an issue and as and when it required the resources are made available for safety purposes.

28. In conclusion Secretary (Coal) mentioned that coal companies have to make all concerted efforts in improving the safety status to enable them to enhance the coal production without compromising safety. He further directed CMDs of the coal companies to pay attention to the concerns expressed by Hon'ble Minister in his opening remarks particularly regarding increase in fatal accidents and fatalities in opencast mines on account of dumper movement. He requested representatives of trade unions to pay special attention in improving safety of workers in mines.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.
