

**Minutes of the 32<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Standing Committee on Safety in coal Mines held on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 in New Delhi**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines was held on 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2009 in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of Shri Santosh Bagrodia, Hon'ble Minister of State for Coal. The list of participants is given at Annexure.

2. One 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 (Agenda item 1).
3. Welcoming the participants, the Chairman stated that energy is critical for the economic & social development and welfare of our society and coal is the main source to meet the growing energy demand. He reiterated that safety of workers is of paramount importance and this was the main objective behind the Nationalisation of Coal Industry for its development in a scientific sustainable & safe manner. He further stressed the need to create a safety culture that percolates from the highest level to the lowest level and requested CMD, CIL to have a system of awarding special marks on safety performance, while appraising the performance of executives.
4. The Chairman then requested the members to deliberate the agenda items and safety status of the coal industry and to give them valuable suggestions inline with the objective of achieving Zero Harm level to coal mines and miners.

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the 31st meeting (Agenda Item 2)**

5. Representative of BMS, Shri S.K. Pandey expressed that comments sent from TU side for incorporation in the minutes may be acknowledged whether they are considered for incorporation or not.
6. The minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 as circulated vide O.M dated 8.4.2008 was adopted by the members.

**ATR on recommendations of the 31<sup>st</sup> meeting (Agenda Item 3)**

**Strengthening of Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS)**

7. Representative of TUs Shri S.K. Pandey and Shri R.P. Singh expressed their concern for delay in filling up the vacancies of inspectors in DGMS.

8. Joint Secretary, Ministry of Labour & Employment informed that they have already initiated action for filling up 105 posts in DGMS. Appointment letters have been issued to 14 candidates for the post of Deputy Directors out of which 7 persons have already joined.

(Action – MoL&E)

**Amendment in Coal Mines Regulations (CMR)**

9. JS, MoL&E informed that the proposed Amendments in CMR, 2006 are under vetting at Ministry of Law. The concurrence on the proposed amendments has been received from MoC, however, the same is awaited from Ministry of Mines. The draft amendments need to be referred in the Committee under Section 12 to Mines Act, which is to be reconstituted since the term of the existing committee is ending in May 2009. Chairman directed that MoL&E should expedite the process.

(Action – MoL&E)

**Roof Bolting**

10. Representative of BMS, Shri S.K. Pandey expressed that the procurement of Mechanized Roof Bolting machines by CIL is very slow due to which at many places manual roof bolting is going on which is not as effective as mechanized bolting.

11. CMD, CIL informed that CIL has made considerable progress in procuring Mechanized Roof Bolting machines during last one year and cited examples of ECL, WCL and other subsidiaries where large numbers of such machines have been procured.

12. Representative of CITU Shri M. K. Mukherjee expressed that percentage of accidents due to roof and side falls are increasing and urged that procurement of mechanized roof bolting machine should be further speeded up.

13. The Chairman directed all Coal Companies to expedite the procurement process.

(Action – Coal Companies)

### **Posting of M- 4 and M- 3 Grade officers in safety and rescue department**

14. CMD, CIL informed that they have taken action to fill up the post of Chief of Safety in CIL with an M-4 Grade officer which had fallen vacant on retirement of earlier ED, Safety.

15. Representative of INTUC Shri G.V.R Sarma pointed out that the decision to post M- 2 Grade officers to head Safety Department is not being followed in some coal companies of CIL.

16. CMD, CIL explained that some times an M- 2 officers are preferred on account of their longer experience on the safety related job.

17. Adviser (Projects) opined that the persons posted as In-charge of safety in coal companies should have adequate experience in the matters related to safety.

(Action – CIL)

### **Deployment of contractor's workers.**

18. Representative of OCMF Shri A.C. Patra and BMS Shri S.K. Pandey pointed out that in many companies, contractor workers are deployed for more than 8 hours in a day and no overtime wages are being paid and also wages are not being paid through banks. Further in some places contractors are also not paying minimum wages to the labour employed by them.

19. CMD, MCL informed that in MCL contractor workers are being paid through banks.

20. Trade Union representative Shri R.P. Singh and Shri Sankar Saha also desired that the payment of minimum wages to contractor workers should be compiled with and the payment of their wages through bank should be implemented by all coal companies.

21. Representative of CITU Shri M. K. Mukherjee desired that the minimum wages should be paid to all contractor workers as per circular issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in August, 2008.

22. CMD, CIL desired to know whether the said circular is applicable to employees working in coal mines. JS, MOLE clarified that the said circular is not applicable to coal mines.

23. Chairman opined that Trade Union representatives may directly approach MoLE regarding making relevant provisions for minimum wages applicable to coal mines.

(Action – Coal Companies/TUs )

#### **Theft of Explosives**

24. Representative of BMS Shri S. K. Pandey expressed that joint inspections of explosive magazines by CMDs of coal companies particularly in the states of Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Madhya Pradesh are not being carried out regularly and there is a need to enforce such inspections.

25. Representative of INTUC Shri R.P. Singh also desired strengthening of security of magazines.

(Action – Coal Companies)

#### **Sub-Committee to inspect Private Mines**

26. Adviser (Projects) informed that nominations from three TUs viz All India Coal Workers Federation (CITU), Akhil Bhartiya Khadan Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) and Indian Mine Workers Federation (INTUC) have not been received for the sub-committee.

27. Chairman desired that the Sub-Committee should start functioning without waiting for the names of representatives from other TUs and further names could be included in the Sub-Committee as and when received.

(Action – MOC)

#### **Safety Statistics and Analysis of Major Accidents occurred recently (Agenda item –IV & V)**

28. CMD, CIL stated that there is a marked improvement in accident statistics since 1975 in spite of manifold increase in coal production. However, the improvement reached a plateau since last 4-5 years and it would require major thrust in R&D and technology infusion to attain Zero Harm level.

29. To a query from the Trade Union representatives, DGMS clarified that the accident statistics provided by DGMS also include contractor's workers and he assured the members that from the next meeting a statistics would be provided by DGMS with respect to contractor workers separately.

(Action – MOL&E/DGMS)

### **Risk Assessment & Management (Agenda item VI)**

30. The status of the risk assessment of all the Companies was reviewed by the Chairman. Chairman viewed the absence of Management representatives of DVC seriously and directed that from the next meeting management representatives of all coal companies must participate without fail.
31. TU representatives appreciated the efforts of CIL in carrying out risk assessment.
32. Representative of BMS Shri S.K. Pandey desired that salient points of risk assessment should be discussed in tripartite meeting also.
33. TU Representative Shri M.K. Mukherjee and Shri A.C. Patra desired that the risk assessment should include near miss accidents also.
34. DGMS informed that in some cement plant, there is practice of analyzing near miss incidents and management takes punitive action if a person is involved himself in three such incidents in succession. He suggested that coal companies could consider adopting this approach for improving alertness of workers and reducing accidents in mines.
35. CMD, CIL desired DGMS to comments on why the impact of risk assessment on reduction of accidents is not conspicuous. DGMS opined that unless manual loading in mines is replaced with mechanised loading there would not be significant improvement in reduction of accident.

**(Action – Coal Companies/DVC)**

### **Occupational health hazards (Agenda item - VII)**

36. Representative of BMS, Shri S.K. Pandey expressed that actual cases of pneumoconiosis are not being reported by coal companies.
37. Representative of CITU Shri M. K. Mukherjee expressed that there should be adequate number of Radiologist, General Physicians etc. in the hospitals as per ILO convention / recommendations of the Tenth Conference on Safety, so that pneumoconiosis and Tuberculosis could be differentiated in mine workers.
38. Representative of INTUC Shri G.V.R. Sharma pointed out that only face workers, Roof dressers Drillers etc. are prone to dust borne diseases. He further expressed that most of the Doctors trained in pneumoconiosis have either resigned

or retired and new Doctors in service may be imparted training in occupational diseases.

39. While appreciating the concern of the members CMD, CIL requested DGMS to arrange for training to CIL Doctors on occupational diseases which was agreed to by the DGMS.

**(Action – Coal Companies/DGMS)**

**Requirement of statutory personnel and Action taken to fill up the shortage**  
**(Agenda Item - VIII)**

40. Status of statutory manpower in various coal companies was reviewed.

41. Representative of INTUC Shri R.P. Singh mentioned that about 600 departmental candidates are waiting for promotion to the posts of Under Managers / Mining Sirdar / Overman etc. and the vacancies should be filled up from the Departmental candidates who have already passed relevant examinations.

42. Representative of COMAI Shri Sukhdev Narayan raised the issue of shortage of E&M Engineers.

43. Director (P&IR), CIL informed that about 500 statutory vacancies have already been filled up and new advertisement has been put up seeking applications.

44. CMD, CIL explained that a number of candidates are being appointed from IIT's. The process is going to be further speeded up. He further pointed out that lots of small mines are operating with heavy losses of around Rs. 3000 per tonne and low OMS of around 0.2 tonne. If such mines are closed, the persons from these mines could be redeployed and shortage could be made up to a large extent.

45. The Chairman mentioned that units which cannot be made viable have to be closed down. However, he requested TU leaders to seriously consider closure of unviable mines and adopt a practical approach so that the losses could be minimized and the National resources could be better utilized. He further suggested that TUs may discuss the matter with CIL management for a meaningful approach.

**(Action – Coal Companies/TUs)**

### **Safety Budget and its Utilization (Agenda item – IX)**

46. Representative of BMS Shri S.K. Pandey expressed that Capital Budgets of coal companies for safety items are not realistic. He further suggested that the power for procurement of safety items should be delegated to subsidiary company for speeding of the process.

47. Representative of INTUC Shri G.V.R Sarma suggested that the safety expenditure should also be reviewed in the company level tripartite meetings.

48. The Chairman observed that the figures for actual expenditures were not furnished by JSMD and directed that these figures should be made available from the next meeting by all companies positively.

**(Action – Coal Companies)**

### **Implementation of recommendations of various court of enquiries (Agenda Item X)**

49. Status was reviewed and Chairman directed all coal companies to strictly follow the recommendations as applicable.

**(Action – Coal Companies)**

50. Shri G.V.R Sarma, INTUC mentioned about Vishnupuri Colliery accident in WCL and desired to know when a court of enquiry is constituted by MoL&E. DGMS mentioned that usually MoL&E considers constitution of a court of enquiry into mine accidents to bring out specific reasons for an accident of serious nature. However, if an accident involves 10 or more fatalities the court of enquiry is invariably constituted.

### **Proposed Amendment of CMR 1957 (Agenda Item XI)**

51. Covered under ATR

### **Recommendations of 10<sup>th</sup> Conference on Safety in Coal Mine held on 26/27<sup>th</sup> November, 2007 (Agenda item XII)**

52. Representative of BMS Shri S. K. Pandey desired to know about the status of implementation of the recommendations pertaining to the establishment of a separate cell for Strata Control in Coal Companies.

53. The Director (Technical), CIL explained that they envisage to set up the Strata Control Cell in two phases. In first phase, a Central Cell will be set up at subsidiary level and in the second stage, such cells would be set up at area level. He further explained that CIL is taking help of SIMTARS of Australia imparting training to CIL officials and CIL expects to have a team of trained experts within six months.

(Action – CIL)

**Other items**

54. The services of Shri M.M. Sharma, DGMS who will be relinquishing the office on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2009 on superannuation, were duly acknowledged by the Chairman and Members of the Committee.

The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the Chair.

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## Annexure

List of participants of the 32<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines held on 17-3-2009 in New Delhi

<u>Sl. No</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>DESIGNATION</u>
<b>MINISTRY OF COAL</b>		
1.	<b>Minister of State for Coal</b>	<b>Chairman</b>
2.	Shri C. Balakrishnan	Secretary (Coal)
3.	Dr. S. P. Seth	Special Secretary (Coal)
4.	Shri P. R. Mandal	Adviser (Projects)
5.	Shri D. N. Prasad	Director (Tech)
6.	Shri A. A. Rao	PS to MOS(C)
7.	Shri R. C. Manocha	US (CRC)
8.	Shri Hukam Chand	SO (CRC-II)
<b>TRADE UNION REPRESENTATIVES</b>		
9.	Shri R. P. Singh	President, INMWF (INTUC)
10.	Shri Sankar Saha	General Secretary, AIUTUC
11.	Shri S.K.Pandey	General Secretary, BMS
12.	Shri Ashok Kr. Dubey	Member, CMS (AITUC), NCL Singrauli
13.	Shri Manas Kr Mukherjee	W.C. Member, AICWF (CITU)
14.	Shri Sukhdev Narayan	President, CMOAI
15.	Shri S. K. Baksi	IMMA
16.	Shri GVR Sarma	Dy. Gen. Secretary INMWF (INTUC)
<b>MINISTRY OF LABOUR &amp; EMPLOYMENT, DGMS</b>		
17.	Shri M.M.Sharma,	DG, DGMS
18.	Shri S.J. Sibal	Dy. Director, DGMS
19.	Shri S.K. Dev Verma	Jt. Secy., MOL&E
20.	Vandana Sharma,	Dy. Secretary, MOL&E
<b>COAL INDIA LIMITED</b>		
21.	Shri P.S.Bhattacharya	Chairman, CIL
22.	Shri T. K. Lahiry	CMD, BCCL
23.	Shri S. Chakraborti	CMD, ECL
24.	Shri M.P. Dikshit	CMD, SECL

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| 25. | Shri S.R.Upadhyay    | CMD, MCL          |
| 26. | Shri D.C.Garg        | CMD, WCL          |
| 27. | Shri R. K. Saha      | CMD, CCL          |
| 28. | Shri S.Chakrabarti,, | CMD, ECL          |
| 29. | Shri V.K. Singh      | CMD, NCL          |
| 30. | Shri N.C.Jha,        | Dir(T), CIL       |
| 31. | Shri R.Mohan Das,    | Dir(P&IR), CIL    |
| 32. | Shri R.K.Chopra,     | CGM, Min. of Coal |

**SINGARENI COLLIERIES COMPANY LIMITED (SCCL)**

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|-----|---------------------|-----------|
| 33. | Shri S. Narsing Rao | CMD, SCCL |
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**NEYVELI LIGNITE CORPORATION LIMITED (NLC)**

- |     |                    |               |
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| 34. | Shri V. Sethuraman | Director(P&P) |
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**CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTED (CMPDI)**

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|-----|----------------|-------------|
| 35. | Shri A.K.Singh | CMD, CMPDIL |
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**CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF MINING & FUEL RESEARCH (CIMFR)**

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| 36. | Shri VVR Prasad | Dy. Director (Roorkee Center) |
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**DAMODAR VALLEY CORPORATION (DVC)**

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| 37. |  | Not Attended |
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**STEEL AUTORITY OF INDIA LIMITED (SAIL-ISP)**

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| 38. | Shri N. Sinha | DGM, SAIL-ISP |
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**JINDAL STEEL**

- |     |                      |                |
|-----|----------------------|----------------|
| 39. | Shri Rajesh Sharma   | Vice President |
| 40. | Shri Neelotpal Gupta | C. A.          |

**TATA STEEL**

- |     |                  |                 |
|-----|------------------|-----------------|
| 41. | Shri Ch. Divakar | General Manager |
|-----|------------------|-----------------|

**BENGAL EMTA**

42. Shri A. K. Tooley Director, Emta

**GUJARAT MINERAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (GMDC)**

43. Shri R. L. Bhatt General Manager

**RAJASTHAN STATE MINES & MINERALS LIMITED (RSMM)**

44. Shri P. C. Purohit, Chief of Internal Safety

**GUJARAT INDUSTRIES POWER CO. LTD. (GIPCL)**

45. Shri G. Koley GM (Mines)

**JHARKHAND STATE MINERAL DEVELOPMENT CORP. (JSMDC)**

46. Shri Ashutosh Prasad Asstt. Director (Geology)

**Press Information Bureau**

Not Attended

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