

Subject: Recommendations of Godavarikhani No. 7 (LEP) Court of Inquiry,

To,
Owners, Agents & Managers of all belowground Coal Mines

The Court of Inquiry appointed under Section 24 of the Mines Act 1952 to inquire into the cause and circumstances attending the accident that occurred in Godavarikhani No. 7(LEP) colliery of M/s Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. on 16th June,2003 causing loss of 17 lives due to inundation, had made, inter-alia, the following recommendations:-

- 1 As it is not possible to check the efficacy of stowing once the mouth of a gallery or mouth of a district is filled with sand, it is essential to device a system to ensure proper effective stowing and tix the accountability. It is recommended that the Asst. Manager and Overman, apart from the Surveyor, should record the actual amount of void filled up together with the efficacy of the stowing. When stowing in a district is completed, the Asst. Manager and Manager should certify in writing the actual status of stowing in the district. The volume of sand stowed in should invariably be recorded at the time of closing the District.
- 2 Before starting a new district, clearance from the Internal Safety Organization must be taken in writing by the local mine management.
- 3 Detailed planning for production in different districts must be done at corporate level and projections given should not be altered at the mine level.
- 4 Owners must monitor important Safety functions, including stowing in districts at regular intervals.
- 5 Safety in mines is a very complex phenomenon and support from the highest quarter is needed for implementation of safety measures in the mines. If the person with the maximum power does not have the highest responsibility for safety, there is always a possibility of miscued stress on the production, sometimes at the cost of safety. So it is recommended that the Chief Executive or the company should be nominated as the owner under Section 76 of the Mines Act, 1952.
- 6 Key personnel in the mines like agents, managers and Surveyors, who have a strong bearing on the safety in mine, should not be transferred frequently.

Before positing such key personnel due diligence should be undertaken to ascertain the suitability of the persons for the post, so that they do not have to be transferred after a short time except on rare occasions.

- 7 During our deliberations we were of the view that information technology could be used for efficiency, increasing production and also mine safety. But we are of the view that this is altogether a different subject, although we are convinced that information technology can be used for mine safety, but it needs a details study and experts need to be grafted into a study team, which could study the subject. Singareni Collieries are being operated by adopting the old age methods of mining almost 100 years and there are not significant changes either in management or in

mining. Information technology is being used successfully in every field. Therefore we have no doubt in our mind that if proper information technology is used in mines it would be much safer.

Proper implementation of this recommendation can bring about definite improvement in the safety standards in the mines, especially against the danger of inundation.

You are requested to take suitable steps to implement the above-mentioned recommendations of the Godavarikhani No. 7(LEF) Court of Inquiry in all mines under your control.

sd/-
(B. Bhattacharjee)
Director General of Mines Safety