

To,
The Owners, Agents and Managers of all mines

Sub: Recommendations of Central Saunda Court of Inquiry.

The Court of enquiry appointed under Section 24 of the Mines Act. 1952 to inquire into the causes and circumstances attending the accident that occurred in Central Saunda Colliery of M/s Central Coalfields Ltd., on 15.06.2005 causing loss Of 14 lives due to inundation, had made the following recommendations; interalia.

- 1.0 Most of the accidents take place essentially due to human failure in complying with the provisions of statute. Recurrence of such failures from time to time is disturbing. Therefore, it is felt that proper and regular training of Officers and supervisory staff is urgently needed to inculcate awareness among them regarding statutory provisions vis-à-vis their duties.
- 2.0 During the hearing sessions of this "Court, the issue of shortage of statutory manpower in mines came into force time and again. Supervision of work in mines has direct bearing on safety of workers and hence it must be ensured that a clear policy of regular recruitment of statutory manpower be framed and implemented by the mine management.
- 3.0 In a company consisting of large number of mines, it becomes very difficult for one person to pay proper attention to safety aspects in all mines. Therefore, the Court is of the opinion that in such companies nomination of ownership may be shared by two or three directors. This will enable them to deal with safety matters, in mines more effectively.
- 4.0 Role of Internal Safety Organization (ISO): Arising out of the recommendations of the 5th Conference on Safety in Mines, most of mining companies have since formulated their safety policy and created ISO to translate the principle of self regulation into practice. The Court feels that though ISO was existing, it had been very effective. Their role could be more purposeful if –
 - a) Work in a new district is commenced only after clearance from ISO,
 - b) The head of ISO should either be on the Board of the company or he should report to a Director not directly connected with production.

You are therefore requested to take suitable steps to implement the above mentioned recommendation of the Central Saunda Court of Inquiry in all mines under your control.

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(M.M. Sharma)
Chief Inspector of Mines