

CHAPTER 10

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 CONCLUSIONS:

1. Six out of its seven coal producing subsidiaries of CIL did not have a Corporate Environment Policy approved by their respective Board of Directors as mandated by MoEF&CC. Further, guidelines containing the responsibility and delegation of powers of different levels in the Environmental wing was not dovetailed by the subsidiaries as a Manual to serve as a guide in the operations in specific mines under their control.
2. Despite adopting various clean coal technologies for mitigating air, water and land related pollution, many instances of non-compliance of the environmental regulations have been observed in CIL and its subsidiaries.
3. Due to absence of uniform policy, different practices are followed in coal subsidiaries as regards use of fly ash for filling mine voids.
4. The subsidiaries produced coal in excess of the quantities permitted under CTO and mining plan, besides operating without EC, CTE and CTO. CCL ventured into mining by destroying forest and constructing building in the vicinity of Palamau tiger reserve without environmental clearance.
5. The subsidiaries collectively expended only 41 *per cent* of the overall amount mandated by MoEF&CC on CSR during 2013-18. The shortfall in actual expenses across subsidiaries ranged between 40 *per cent* and 87 *per cent*, thereby impeding the process of sustainable community development around specific mines.
6. Against 45 identified fire projects under the Jharia Master Plan for resettlement / rehabilitation, firefighting activities commenced only in 25 projects. Neither did BCCL have the expertise to assess the extent of underground fire nor did it avail of the services of experts. National Remote Sensing Centre reported that the quantum of surface fire which covered an area of 2.018 sq. km in 2014, expanded to 3.28 square km in 2018, thereby endangering the lives of the people residing in and around the fire area besides impacting the environment adversely.
7. There was no progress in the implementation of the solar project although CIL projected to set up 1000 MW by March 2019. Besides, the envisaged environmental benefits by switching over to solar power also did not fructify.

8. There is no consistency among CIL and its subsidiaries for determining sanctioned strength vis-à-vis deployment of environment executives in their mines and HQs.
9. The monitoring mechanism in the subsidiaries and the oversight role played by CIL were found to be inadequate. Third party audit of environment department was not conducted for evaluation of its environmental activities in all the subsidiaries.

10.2 RECOMMENDATIONS:

We recommend that:

1. The companies under coal sector may put in place an Environment Policy duly approved by their respective BoD as mandated by MoEF&CC.
2. The subsidiaries may adopt two pronged strategy for pollution control. The capital works relating to pollution control measures may be completed expeditiously. The plantation works may also be taken up simultaneously and aggressively to increase green cover and restore ecological balance in and around the mines.
3. CIL should frame uniform and scientific policy towards use of fly ash in the mines so as to ensure environmental sustainability.
4. Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenses may be dovetailed to ensure sustainable community development around specific mines as mandated under EC so as to avoid lopsided development.
5. Remedial actions for mitigation and arresting the adverse impact of subsidence and fire at Jharia Coalfields on the environment may be expedited.
6. Implementation of solar power project may be put on fast track so that the environmental benefits fructify as envisaged.
7. Manpower in the Environment Department of CIL and subsidiaries may also be rationalised and Environmental Manual be formulated to serve as a guide in the operations in specific mines under their control.
8. The monitoring mechanism in the subsidiaries may be strengthened by streamlining the existing reporting process for maintaining neutrality and to

ensure proper checks and balances in the system of compliance mechanism. The oversight role of CIL be directed to ensure compliance to prescribed environmental standards.

9. Deficiencies observed in mitigation of environmental pollution were based on audit of sample mines which may be reviewed in other mines to ensure compliance of environmental rules and regulations.

Ministry of Coal accepted the recommendations and stated that these recommendations would be applicable to entire coal sector which included companies other than CIL also and assured to take appropriate action.



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**New Delhi
Dated: 31 July 2019**

Countersigned



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Comptroller and Auditor General of India

**New Delhi
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