

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3281
ANSWERED ON 09.08.2023

Burning of Coal Mines

†3281. **SHRI SHANKAR LALWANI:**
DR. ARVIND KUMAR SHARMA:
DR. BHARATIBEN DHIRUBHAI SHIYAL:

Will the Minister of **Coal** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the coal mines in Jharkhand have been burning for many years and are yet to be controlled;
- (b) if so, the details of the amount of coal estimated to be destroyed by the said fire;
- (c) the time by which the said fire is likely to be controlled along with the details of the measures taken in this regard; and
- (d) the number of mines which have been burning at present?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) & (b): Some coal mines of Jharia in Jharkhand have been burning for many years due to unscientific mining prior to nationalisation of coal mines and it was estimated that about 37 MT of good quality prime coking coal has been destroyed due to fire, as per Jharia Master Plan approved in 2009.

(c) & (d): BCCL is periodically conducting survey by National remote Sensing Center (NRSC) Hyderabad for delineation of surface fire. As per the latest survey report done in year 2020-21, the surface fire area has been reduced to 1.8 sq km spread over 27 locations. Out of these 27 locations, fire at 16 locations is being dealt by operating fire dealing projects through excavation and balance locations are being dealt by blanketing. Surface fire at these locations are likely to be controlled by December 2025. These 27 locations fall under 19 coal mines.
