



सत्यमेव जयते



आजादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

भारत सरकार
Government of India
श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय
Ministry of Labour & Employment
खान सुरक्षा महानिदेशालय
Directorate General of Mines Safety



No. DGMS/(Tech) Instruction /01

Dhanbad, Dated - 25/04/2022

To

All Inspecting officers

Sub: Recommendations of the Rajmahal Court of Inquiry constituted to inquire into the causes and circumstances leading to the accident at Rajmahal Opencast Mine of M/s Eastern Coalfields Limited on 29.12.2016.

The court of Inquiry was constituted under Section 24 of the Mines Act, 1952, to inquire into the causes and circumstances attending to the accident that occurred at Rajmahal Opencast Mine of M/s Eastern Coalfields Limited on 29.12.2016, due to the failure of batter resulting into instant sliding of dump, about 600m X 100m in size and 4.31 lakh cu.m. in volume (as per HPC Report), burying 23 workers employed thereat.

The court of Inquiry had observed the following lapses on the part of DGMS:

(i) Many officers from DGMS inspected Deep Mining Zone of Rajmahal Opencast Mine since its inception till the occurrence of accident but none considered it necessary to scrutinise the permission letters issued by DGMS in 1987 & 2012 regarding their applicability to Deep Mining Zone.

(ii) Officers of DGMS while making inspections of Rajmahal Opencast Mine must have observed geological disturbances and presence of high internal dump in the vicinity of Deep Mining Zone, but did not stop the operation. In view of complex conditions prevailing in the mine, they should have directed the management for submission of application for permission supported by scientific study.

(iii) Inspecting officers of DGMS did not point out violations for contravention of the provisions of Regulation 98 of the CMR, 1957 regarding slope/benching in coal, in-situ OB and OB dump prevailing in Dahernangi Patch of Rajmahal Opencast Mine. They also did not take action for non-installation of Slope Stability Radar in the mine.

(iv) Officer of DGMS, who inspected the re-handling patch on 11.08.2016 did not point out violations regarding inadequate benching and deposed before the Court that the area was adequately benched during his inspection. It is difficult to accept his this statement as only two days before his inspection on 09.08.2016, a slide had occurred in the area. Also, the Committee of ISO after inquiry into the said incidence had recommended for de-capping of OB dump.

(v) In conclusive remark, the court also added the following point-

"Coal in Deep Mining Zone of Rajmahal Opencast Mine was being extracted without obtaining permission from DGMS under Regulation 98 of the CMR 1957. Benches formed in the workings were steeply sloped / in-adequately benched. The mining operation in Deep Mining Zone were conducted in the vicinity of highly disturbed geological zone and high overburden dump. There were serious contraventions of the CMR 1957, but **officers of DGMS who were supposed to enforce the CMR, 1957 did not take adequate steps to ensure removal of dangerous conditions in the mine and allowed to run the mine in unsafe condition.**"

Keeping in view of the above observations of the Court of Inquiry, all inspecting officers are directed to:


(i) thoroughly assess the dangers that exist in the mine and also check the preparedness of the management on mitigation of risk.

(ii) see that an appropriate scheme for mining and slope monitoring on the basis of scientific study inputs/ report is prepared by the owner and Agent of the mine under their control as required under the provisions of Reg. 106(2) and Reg. 108 of the Coal Mines Regulations 2017 read with DGMS (Tech.) Circular 2 & 3 of the 2020; and mine(s) are being worked as per the above scheme of mining.

It should be ensured that the scientific study and the scheme as mentioned above are reviewed time to time and whenever there is any significant change in the geo-mining conditions.

(iii) improve the quality of inspection with follow up actions to rectify the deficiencies observed during the inspection.

Dy. DGs of the zones are requested to review the compliance.


25.04.2022

(Prabhat Kumar)

Chief Inspector of Mines.