



सत्यमेव जयते

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



No. DGMS (Tech) Circular (MAMID)/ 05

Dhanbad, dated : 03 / 06 /2014

To

The Owner, Agent and Manager  
All Underground Coal Mines.

Subject : Fatal accident to four persons due to fall of roof

Sir,

Recently, in an underground coal mine, four persons including an assistant manager died due to fall of roof in a goaved out area of a depillaring district.

The enquiry revealed the following:-


1. Diagonal line of extraction was not followed as prescribed in the permission letter issued by the Directorate for depillaring.
2. The prescribed manner of extraction was violated i.e. instead of extracting pillars by level split and dip slices, the pillars were extracted by formation of four stooks and then extracting the stooks.
3. Due to the variations, above-mentioned, from the manner of extraction, the work persons including assistant manager were employed in an area which had formed a part of goaf.
4. Goaf edge supports as prescribed in the approved Systematic Support Rules (SSR) under Regulation 108 of the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 were not provided.
5. No convergence recorders were provided in the depillaring district at suitable point(s) to indicate the impending fall of roof well in advance.

From this incident, it appears that there is misunderstanding of the methodology of depillaring or overconfidence of official(s) employed in the depillaring district. In order to prevent recurrence of the same in future, the following steps need to be taken :-

1. After obtaining permission for depillaring and before commencement of depillaring operation, all supervisory officials and other key personals to be employed in the district shall be appraised with all conditions, stipulated in the permission letter and implication of the conditions.

2. During depillaring operation, an official from Internal Safety Organization (ISO) of the company shall inspect the district at frequent intervals to ensure the compliance of the conditions stipulated in the permission.
3. Special attention is required to be given to ensure
  - (i) installation of convergence recorder(s) at suitable place(s) to get indication of impending fall well in advance.
  - (ii) erection of skin to skin goaf edge cogs and props to prevent inadvertent entry of person(s).

Yours faithfully,

  
(Rahul Guha) 3-6-14  
Director General of Mines Safety