

Preface

This Report of the Comptroller & Auditor General of India contains the results of the Performance Audit on “Assessment of Environmental Impact due to Mining Activities and its Mitigation in Coal India Limited and its Subsidiaries”. The impact on environment due to large scale extraction of coal from opencast as well as underground mines along with compliance to various environmental mitigation rules and regulations has assumed significance warranting a study to examine and to ensure that coal mining, as an economic activity, is carried out in a socially responsible and environmentally sustainable manner, with due consideration and compliance to requisite environmental stipulations.

The audit has been conducted in conformity with the Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller & Auditor General of India. The Report highlights deficiencies of the public sector coal companies to mitigate the environmental hazards of mining and adherence to various statutory compliances related to environmental stipulations. Based on the audit findings, several recommendations are made in the Report which would serve as an aid to the better environmental management in the coal mines. The Report has been prepared under the provisions of Section 19-A of the Comptroller & Auditor General’s (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971.

Audit wishes to acknowledge the cooperation received from Coal India Limited, its Subsidiaries and the Ministry of Coal at each stage of audit process.

