
China punishes 3900 in 571 accident probes

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According to the China's ministry of supervision, Chinese supervision authorities have investigated 571 big accidents with 3,931 officials punished in the past five years. A press release of the China's ministry of supervision said that this was one of the several special actions the ministry launched since 2002, based on complaints received from the public.

In 2005, the ministry started a campaign against government officials and managers of state owned enterprises who have stake in private coalmines, jointly with the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection of Communist Party of China.

The release added that after a year of investigation, 148 officials were punished and stake worth of CNY 709 million (USD 94 million) was withdrawn. It said that the ministry and CCDI also pushed relevant departments to pay CNY 17.55 billion (USD 2.33 billion) of defaulted compensation to farmers who lost their land in government-driven projects since 1999.

According to the press release, by 2005, defaulted salary of CNY 33.7 billion (USD 4.48 billion) was also paid to migrant workers. It further added that by January 2007, the government of all levels had paid CNY 183.4 billion (USD 24.39 billion) of defaulted payment to contractors in construction projects, accounting for 98.6% of the total money they had owed by 2003.

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