

mining/production of coal.

(b) Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL) Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) have manpower more than the requirement. Similarly, SCCL and TISCO have also reported about surplus manpower.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply given to (a) above.

Strike in Singareni Collieries Company Limited

2755. SHRI SOLIPETA
RAMACHANDRA
REDDY:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited have ended the strike;

(b) if not, what are their demands; and

(c) the steps taken by the management to improve the working conditions of underground miners in Kothagudem area for better negotiations with the trade unions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(c) The Management is implementing all statutory provisions under the Mines Act, Mines Rules and Coal Mines Regulations to improve the working conditions in underground mines in Kothagudem areas.

Mining of Coal dust in Tindharia, Siliguri

2756. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA:
Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that unbridled primitive rathole mining of coal dust in Tindharia (Darjeeling) on way to Siliguri, not only endangers flora and fauna in the area, but also threatens the township, which happens to be the headquarters of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway;

(b) whether this mining of coal dust has been going on for many years without any licences in the encroached forest land; and

(c) if so, whether Government have not taken any steps to stop this illegal mining which is responsible for buying alive more than 20 persons and gradual sinking of land of Tindharia Bazar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) The question raised by the Hon'ble M.P. pertains to alleged coal mining in Tindharia in Darjeeling, which is not within the nationalised coal mines operated by any of the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL). The State Government of West Bengal have been requested to provide information on this subject which has not been received. The same will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

कोल इंडिया लि० में कार्यरत महिला कर्मचारों के लिए वैकल्पिक उपबंध

2757. श्री दारा सिंह चौहान: क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या कोल इंडिया लि० में महिला कर्मिकों के लिए यह वैकल्पिक प्रावधान है कि उनके स्थान पर उनके जवान लड़के काम कर सकते हैं और क्या अन्य कोयला कंपनियों में भी ऐसा प्रावधान है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकारी अधिकारी विशेषकर भारत कोकिंग कोल लि० और सी०सी०एल० के अधिकारी ऐसे आदेशों की खुलकर अवहेलना कर रहे हैं?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री दिलीप राय): (क) कोल इंडिया लि० द्वारा दी गई सूचना के अनुसार कोल इंडिया लि० तथा उसकी सहायक कंपनियों में महिला कामगारों के स्थान पर उनके जवान लड़कों को

नियोजित करने का कोई प्रावधान नहीं है।

(ख) उपर्युक्त उत्तर के (क) भाग को दृष्टिगत करते हुए प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता है।

Inadequate Infrastructure in Coal Sector

2758. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the infrastructure to handle the growing demand and production of coal is inadequate; and

(b) how does Government plan to overcome this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Yes, Sir. There has been mismatch between production and transport capacities in some of the coal producing areas.

(b) Ministry of Coal and Coal Companies are taking steps to improve despatches by rail in coordination with the Railways for increased evacuation of coal from coalfields of Talcher, Ib Valley, North Karanpura and Korla. Steps are also constantly made to improve the infrastructure for evacuation of coal produced by the coal companies by Rail cum-sea movement by revamping port infrastructure.

French collaboration in Khottadih Colliery

2759. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether underground of Khottadih colliery under Eastern Coalfields Ltd. envisaging deployment of Powered Support Equipment and Project was implemented in collaboration with France;

(b) whether, after starting production in July, 1994 the powered support

equipment got damaged in April, 1997;

(c) if so, what is the reason for the damage;

(d) what was the cost of the project; and

(e) what is the total loss of coal production and amount caused thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The powered support longwall face equipment was damaged due to massive dynamic loading of the overlying strata.

(d) The cost of the project was Rs. 340.86 crores, of which the cost of the longwall equipment was Rs. 92 crores.

(e) It has been reported by Coal India Limited that due to damage to the equipment the annual loss of production is 0.58 million tonnes of a value of Rs. 58 crores.

Underground and open cast mines in BCCL

2760. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of production and productivity in underground mines and open cast mines in BCCL in 1975, 1980, 1990 and 1997;

(b) employment and investment in BCCL for the same period;

(c) the steps taken to improve working in underground mines; and

(d) the total reserve extractable by underground mines and by open cast mines as on the 1st April, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) The details of production and productivity in underground and opencast mines in BCCL in 1975-76, 1980-81, 1990-91 and 1997-98 are given below: