

Group insurance of colliery workers

3065. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the group insurance of colliery workers has been announced;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the said scheme has been opposed, if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Coal Mine workers are covered under the Coal Mines Deposit-linked Insurance Scheme, 1976. However, the colliery workers of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited have been exempted from the operation of this scheme and are covered by a Life Cover Scheme. The employees are not required to pay any premium towards this scheme and the expenditure is met by the employers.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Supply of substandard coal to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board

3066. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state'

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has alleged that the coal supplied to Tamil Nadu Electricity Board is substandard; and

(b) if not, what action has been taken for the false claim?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) There have been some complaints from Tamil Nadu Electricity Board regarding

quality of coal supplied to them. These complaints mainly relate to presence of extraneous materials and over sized coal. While steps are being taken to ensure supply of proper quality of coal, it may be observed that presence of extraneous materials can not be completely ruled out unless coal is subjected to beneficiation. The actual quality of coal supplies to power houses is however determined based on the analysis and payment is accordingly regulated.

Following steps are being taken by Coal Companies to improve the quality of coal supplies sent to consumers, including the Tamil Nadu Electricity Board:

(i) An action plan for installation of feeder breakers and coal handling plants is being implemented.

(ii) Stones are being segregated at the time of loading of coal.

(iii) Wherever feasible slow moving picking belts are being provided in coal handling plants for manual picking of shale and stone pieces;

(iv) Better supervision is being ensured at the time of loading to maintain the quality of coal and to develop quality consciousness among workers, supervisors and executives engaged at railway sidings.

(v) Consumers, including TNEB, are encouraged to post their representatives at loading points to ensure quality "of coal despatches.

Abandoning of Coal Mining Projects

3067. PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) how many projects subsidiary-wise have to be abandoned on account of failure inspite of approval

by Ministry having a Mining Advisor for the last 15 years;

(b) what were the reasons therefor;

(c) whether anybody has been made accountable for failure of these projects at the Ministry level;

(d) if so, the details therefor;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Mining Advisor responsible for these failures is still setting in the Ministry and working at different capacities;

(f) whether it is also a fact that the same official is also responsible

for failure of imported machineries including the power supported Long Wall Faces for the last 15 years; and

(g) if not, what remedial measures have been taken to offset such failures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) According to information received from Coal India Ltd., following five coal projects sanctioned by Government were not taken up/abandoned.

Project	Remarks
1. Landolia Underground (ECL)	Project was considered unviable due to thin seam and high cost of longwall equipment.
2. Chinakuri RPR (ECL)	Technology proposed by erstwhile USSR experts was not considered safe.
3. Ningha Underground (ECL)	Method of extraction proposed was not permitted by Director General Mines Safety.
4. Parbelia Underground (ECL)	Project technology proposed was not found viable.
5. Talcher Underground (MCL)	During underground development seam thickness was found varying over wide ranges.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) No, Sir-

(g) Procurement of equipment (including longwall equipment) both by way off import as well as through indigenous sources are undertaken by the coal companies in accordance with laid down procedures in this regard. The measures, inter alia, include appropriate performance guarantees by the manufacturers/suppliers.

Different Kinds of coal allotted to Sikkim

3068. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what are the different kinds, of coal allotted to the State, of sikkim and at what rates; and

(b) what is the quantity of each type of coal and the coalfields, these are supplied from?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) According to information received " from Coal India Limited consumers in sikkim are being allotted steam/slack coal as well as soft coke. These are being supplied at the notified prices.

The quantities of differnt types of coal/coke despatched to Sikkim during the year 1994-95 were as-under:

Steam coal	4200 tonnes
Slack coal	530 tonnes
Soft coke	2300 tonnes
Total	7030 tonnes