

(c) whether Government is aware that these coal mafia have got the backlog of high placed officials of NCL; and

(d) if so, the details of measures being taken by Government for these workers for their normal life and security?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) The Government is aware of various problems faced by workers working in coal mines. Keeping in view the problems faced by the workers, various measures are undertaken from time to time to improve the working conditions and living conditions by the coal companies. They also undertake welfare activities and social security measures. Recently, Joint Bipartite Committee for the Coal Industry (JBCCI) comprising of representatives of the Central Trade Unions, i.e. INTUC, AITUC, HMS, BMS & CITU and the management signed the National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA-VIII) which is effective from 1.7.2006 wherein there has been an increase in both wages and other fringe benefits including the components related to welfare and social security.

(b) No Sir. The Government is not aware of any such practice of workers giving a large part of their wages to coal mafia.

(c) No Sir.

Modernisation of coal mines

1649. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to modernise a number of its coal mines in the country and also to incorporate upgraded technology and machineries;

(b) if so, the details of losses/profits earned by each of the coal mines during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether most of the underground mines of the Eastern Coalfields Limited have been under losses for the last several years;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) to what extent the modernisation and upgradation of various coal mines is going to bring such coal mines out of the red?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. All the opencast mines (155 nos. in Coal India Limited (CIL) and 14 nos. in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL)) are mechanized mines. In case of 294 underground mines in CIL; 112 mines are mechanized/semi mechanized; 84 mines are having both manual and semi mechanized working and the rest 98 are having manual workings. In Case of SCCL all 36 mines are mechanized/semi mechanized. CIL proposes to further mechanize 28 mines with longwall /continuous miner technology and 40 mines with t semi mechanization deploying side discharge loaders/load haul dumpers. The loss/Profit incurred by some of the mines proposed for mechanization are given in the table below:

(Rupees in crores)

Name of Mine	Company	Loss/Profit	Loss/Profit	Loss/Profit
		2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Moonidih	BCCL	-38.86	-38.51	-92.72
PB Project	BCCL	-2.46	-10.40	-51.45
Madhuband	BCCL	-1.96	-4.27	-21.00
Vindhya U/G	SECL	-1041.27	-803.42	-1532
Pinoura U/G	SECL	-349.27	-701.13	-1444
Kurja U/G	SECL	177.58	-38-85	-151.50
Kapildhara U/G	SECL	2051.06	2131.19	1277

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Most of the underground mines of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) are loss making. The main reasons for suffering losses are inheritance of large number of work force in its underground mines at the time of nationalization; stiff resistance from trade unions for redeployment of personnel to potential mines and conducting of operations in underground mines with sand stowing in order to protect the surface features leading to increased cost of operations.

(e) Closing down of uneconomic mines, opening of green field underground mines with state of the art technologies; mechanizing the manual workings wherever feasible are some of the efforts being adopted for turning around loss making mines.

Share of private and public sector companies in coal

†1650. SHRI SUBHASH PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the share of private and public sector companies in coal mining projects and the criteria of their allotment;

(b) the number of coal projects approved during the last three years and in the current financial year and the criteria thereof;

(c) whether Indian companies have been ignored in the process of allotment;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the details of procedure for approving the coal projects; and

(f) the details of the outcome of recently concluded meeting of the Ministers of Coal and Environment and Forests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) 201 coal blocks with geological reserves of about 45 BT have been allocated (upto May, 2009) to various public and private companies registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 for different end uses specified in Section 3(3)(a) of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. Out of the total 201 coal blocks, 97 coal blocks have been allocated to public sector companies and 104 coal blocks

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.