

Import of coal by CIL

2620. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA :

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Coal India Limited proposes to import around 4 million tonnes of coal during the current fiscal year;
- (b) if so, the countries from which coal would be imported and under what terms and conditions;
- (c) whether coal would be imported for some specific projects and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to locate more coal mines in the country to meet its requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) In line with the directions of the Government, Coal India Limited (CIL) is in the process of working out a plan for import of about 4 million tonnes of coal during the current financial year (2009-10) for the intending buyers from power utility sector based on firm commitment received from such utilities.

(d) As per the Report of the Working Group on Coal & Lignite for formulation of XI Five Year Plan, CIL proposes to plan 134 number of coal mines (including expansion & extension projects) with tentative additional capacity of 357 million tonnes with expected contribution of about 135 million tonnes during the terminal year of XI Plan i.e. 2011-12.

Funds for welfare of labourers in WCL

†2621. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the funds allocated for welfare of labourers in Western Coal-fields Ltd. (WCL) in Kanhan and Pench area in Chhindwara district of Madhya Pradesh, during the last five years, coal mining-wise;
- (b) the items for which the funds have been utilized and the works done from the allocated amounts;
- (c) whether the labourers of Kanhaan area residing in Saiking, 40 Quarter, Gadha Dafai, Hanuman Dafai, Chief House Camp, Jamkunda, Maszid Dafai, Ambada near WCL office, Mohan Kaalri Tatta Ambada near WCL office, Mohan Kaalri Tatta Lines etc. colonies are provided with basic facilities; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) (a) and (b) The details are being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) Yes, Sir. The basic facilities have been provided to labourers residing in all colonies of Kanhan area.

(d) Not applicable in view of reply at (c) above.

Illegal mining and theft of coal

2622. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of illegal mining and theft of coal from mines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to curb such practices in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Illegal mining mostly takes place in old and abandoned mines, small and isolated patches, areas situated at remote/isolated places from mines, which are scattered over a large area, exposed coal seams and also in areas not in the leasehold areas of public sector coal companies. Due to clandestine nature of illegal mining activities, the exact quantum of coal, so mined and losses incurred on account of illegal mining cannot be ascertained. However, on the basis of raids conducted by the security personnel of coal companies as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Government, the approximate quantity of coal recovered during 2008-09 and its value thereof were approximately 8,584 tonnes and Rs.1.02 crore respectively.

Similarly, theft/pilferage of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely and as such, it is not possible to specify the losses incurred on account of this menace. However, as per the raids conducted by the security personnel as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the State Governments, the quantity of coal recovered and its approximate value during 2008-09 were 23,198 tonnes and Rs. 334 crore respectively in Coal India Ltd. (CIL).

(c) Since law and order is a State subject, primarily it is the responsibility of State/District Administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb illegal mining. However, following steps are being taken by the companies to prevent illegal mining.

- (a) Rat holes created by illegal mining are being dozed off and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible.
- (b) Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.
- (c) Regular raids/checks being conducted by security personnel and static security pickets including armed guards during the night hours are being deployed at pithead depots.
- (d) Surprise raids/checks being conducted jointly by security personnel and law and order authorities of the concerned State Government.