

during 2010-11, coal was allocated by Central Electricity Authority on pro-rata basis depending upon the commissioning of different projects. Coal will be supplied by the coal companies in terms of Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) and Annual Contracted Quantity (ACQ) indicated therein.

Abandoned mines of Bharat Coking Coal Limited at Dhanbad

2262. SHRI RAJ KUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a young boy fell in the abandoned coal mine of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) at Dhanbad during the first week of March, 2010 and instead of rescuing him he was buried in the mine without ascertaining whether he was alive or dead;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed for the incident and compensation paid to parents of the deceased;

(d) how many abandoned mines of BCCL are uncovered in the area and the action taken against the company for not covering them; and

(e) the action being taken to prevent recurrence of such incident?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The incident happened in an abandoned mine of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) on 02-03-2010. Reportedly the boy fell down in an abandoned shaft (which was fenced off by 1 mtr. tall wall) while fleeing from local police. Initially, the shaft could not be filled up due to very densely populated areas and local resistance. On hearing the incident, BCCL immediately initiated rescue operations. The shaft being very long disused, it was observed that the safety lamps got extinguished after lowering about 70 mtr. indicating there is no presence of oxygen to support human life. There was no other access available to reach the bottom of the shaft. Directorate General of Mine Safety (DGMS) also did not permit any further rescue operation as there was no permitted equipment available for lowering people down the shaft as per the statute for safety and prevention of accidents. On pursuance of local police and state authorities some further efforts were made, which

also did not succeed. Subsequently, following consultations with State authorities with local people, BCCL was allowed to fill up the shaft. Since the accident was not in an area of BCCL's current operations, BCCL has not paid any compensation. Officers association of BCCL paid Rupees 70,000/- to the parents of the deceased. DGMS is inquiring into the accident.

(d) and (e) From the pre Nationalization period, there was 1569 nos. of shaft/openings. However, as on date all such openings have been fenced/covered/sealed off as per the statutory requirement.

Mining in coal blocks

2263. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that High Level Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted by PMO has recommended that mining may be allowed in as many as 77 coal blocks which did not find favour earlier by the Ministry of Environment and Forests; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, location-wise and State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer given in part (a) of the question.

Allocation of coal blocks for thermal power plants

2264. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that a number of thermal power plants are coming up for the production of power ;

(b) how many thermal power projects have sent the proposal to get the coal, the State-wise demand and Government's arrangement to supply the coal ;

(c) whether Government is allocating coal blocks to different States and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Punjab Government has sent any request to allocate the coal blocks for thermal power plants to be set up in the State and if so, the status of the request of the State Government?