

(c) and (d) On a complaint received from Central Vigilance Commission, the comments of State Government of Chattisgarh were sought. The State Government of Chattisgarh furnished the details of coal production from Chotia coal block allocated to M/s Prakash Industries Ltd. In the meantime on the issue of allocation of coal blocks to M/s Prakash Industries Ltd. is being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation. They have registered a case against the company and investigating the matter. The findings of the investigation are not known to the Ministry of Coal.

Collection of funds towards PM's National Relief Fund

3569. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited(CIL) and its subsidiaries collected a huge amount of funds from employees on various occasions but did not deposit it in Prime Minister's National Relief Funder Income Tax Relief;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor during the last three years and the current year, occasion-wise and year-wise;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the guilty officials along with the names and designations?

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

(a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) In view of the reply at (a) above, question does not arise.

Quantity of mineable/extractable coal

3570. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the quantity of mineable/extractable coal is lower;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken to meet the coal demand?

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

(a) and (b) The mineable/extractable reserves largely depend on availability of land including forest land, surface constraints, such as built up areas in villages, towns, river/nalla, railway lines, roads, reservoirs, geo-mining conditions etc. The proportion of extractable reserves may vary widely depending on the presence or absence of the above constraints. In underground mines due to the safety reasons certain quantity of coal are required to be left as barriers against the inter mines boundary, important surface features, water bodies, fires, as a roof support and left against other geological disturbance. In opencast mines, extractable reserves are around 80% - 90% as compared to 15% - 25% for underground mines.

(c) The following steps have been taken to increase domestic production of coal in the country to meet the demand of coal:

- (i) 142 coal projects of Coal India Limited have been identified to be taken up during XI Plan period.
- (ii) Introduction of mass production technology with Continuous miners & shuttle car combination, Side Discharge Loader/Load Haul Dumper with high speed mechanized drilling etc. where geo-mining conditions permit.
- (iii) Some underground coal mines/blocks have been identified for development, construction and operation of high capacity with state-of-the-art technology.
- (iv) Upgradation to high capacity equipment matching with bench height and stripping ratio.
- (v) Enhancement of Railway infrastructure facilities at different subsidiary coal companies of CIL is in progress.
- (vi) 208 coal blocks have been allotted to different companies. State and Central Government companies are being allotted Coal mining blocks without restriction of captive mining.

Closed coal projects/mines

†3571. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.