

### **Contract workers in Neyveli Lignite Corporation**

642. SHRI T.K. RANGARAJAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than 12,000 contractor workers are engaged in perennial nature of jobs in Neyveli Lignite Corporation for number of years;
- (b) if so, whether they are agitating including strike on various demands;
- (c) if so, the details of their demands; and
- (d) the action taken by Government to address their long standing demands?

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

(a) No, Sir. Around 9600 contract workers are presently engaged by the Contractors for executing the works awarded by the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC), which are non-perennial in nature.

(b) and (c) The contract workmen represented by their Trade Unions issued strike notices during August, 2010 demanding, *inter-alia*, a hike in wages and other benefits. As a settlement could not be reached despite various conciliation meetings, they commenced strike from 19.09.2010.

(d) During the period of strike, the situation was closely monitored. NLC were advised to resolve the issue amicably and accordingly the strike was called off on 27.10.2010. After several rounds of discussions, at various levels, a Memorandum of Understanding was arrived at on 27.10.2010 which culminated in a final settlement on 30.10.2010 before the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central).

### **Demand of lignite**

643. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the demand of lignite in the country during the last five years, year-wise and State-wise;
- (b) the details of lignite exported from the country during the above period, year-wise and mine-wise;
- (c) the details of lignite imported into the country during the above period, year-wise;
- (d) whether it is a fact that production of lignite is just 50 million tonnes and the projected demand is nearly 56 million tonnes; and
- (e) if so, how the Ministry is planning to bridge the gap?

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

(a) The State-wise projected demand for lignite during Eleventh Plan is as under:—