

New coal companies

***127. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA:** Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the norms in terms of production and profits for establishment of new coal companies and the names of companies which do not satisfy the norms;

(b) whether Talcher Division of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited can be constituted into a separate company on the basis of its production, profits and potential; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHIBU SOREN): (a) No norms have been laid down for establishment of new coal companies. However, an Expert Committee on Public Sector Undertakings under the Chairmanship of Mr. Md. Fazal, the then Member, Planning Commission, submitted a Report in November, 1980 (Fazal Committee Report) which laid down that for creating a separate coal company, the optimal production that should be handled and managed by a viable coal company should be in the region of approx. 20 million tonnes annually. After 1980, there have been enormous technological changes in the mining industry and heavy earth moving machinery is getting bigger and bigger in size. There are single mines producing even 30-40 million tonnes abroad per annum. The 20 million tonnes figure, therefore, needs to be revisited.

Administrative convenience and opening of new areas are some of the factors that are taken into consideration for opening up of new coal companies. On this basis in the past SECL, NCL and MCL coal companies were created. But now international climate has changed and experience shows that big companies can organize business in a more efficient and organized way and can perform better in comparison to smaller companies in view of better technology, trained man-power, better economics of production and better bargaining power in purchase of equipment and other items. All coal producing subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited produce more than 20 million tonnes of coal annually.

(b) and (c) Talcher Division of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL), produced 42.06 million tonnes of coal in 2003-04. MCL was formed in 1992 by carving out part of the coalfields under South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL) that

fell in the territory of Orissa State. No operational or administrative constraints are being experienced by MCL in the management and development of coal mines in the Talcher area. Since MCL has been formed only in 1992 looking to the fast growth potential of the Ib Valley and Talcher area and economic, administrative and operational conveniences and other factors, creation of a new coal company for the Talcher Coalfields is not considered necessary at present.

Increase in cases of death of Indians abroad

*130. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in the cases of death of Indian nationals working in foreign countries;

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

(c) the number of deaths of Indian nationals reported in the various Indian missions during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is some increase in the cases of death of Indian nationals working in some countries.

(c) the details giving number of cases of death reported by Indian Missions/Posts abroad for the last three years in enclosed as Statement (see below).

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

No. of Deaths of Indian nationals reported by various Indian Missions

Country/Mission/Post	2001	2002	2003
1. Algeria	2	0	0
2. Argentina	0	1	1
3. Armenia	1	0	0
4. Australia (Canberra)	0	0	1