

- Manual loading is being replaced by deployment of SDL/LHD and re-organization of transport system wherever feasible.
- 18 abandoned mines with estimated reserves of over 1600 MT of high quality coking coal and thermal coal have been identified for developing under a joint venture agreement with association of global underground mining companies.

SCCL

- Two high capacity (2.0 MTPA) Long-Wall projects are under construction.
- Two continuous miners are working to liquidate the standing pillars and virgin coal seams.
- 100 tonnes capacity dumpers and 12 cubic meter shovels have been introduced in open cast mines.

Mining Tribunals in the country

***258. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA:** Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- the number of Mining Tribunals in the country;
 - their locations and objectives;
 - who are the *ex-officio* members of the respective benches;
 - how often the Tribunals meet;
 - whether it is a fact that there are long delays in getting hearings at the Tribunals;
- and
- the steps proposed by Government to utilize Tribunals to regulate and control the monopolies recently created in the mining sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Section 30 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act) confers powers on the Central Government to revise any Order made by the State Government or other authority in exercise of powers conferred on it by the Act or under the Rules made thereunder for minerals other than minor mineral, of its own motion or on an application made within the prescribed time by an aggrieved party. Thus the power of Revision lies with Central Government as per the MMDR Act, 1957. There is no Tribunal prescribed under MMDR Act or any Rules thereunder.

(b) to (f) In view of (a) above does not arise.

Needless drug delivery device of IISc.

***259. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN:** Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: