

[18 May, 2006]

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(e) The production of coal through indigenous sources has been increasing over the year, however, there is mismatch in demand and supply due to spurt in demand of coal on account of high rate of economic growth. Coal India Limited has taken following steps to increase indigenous production of coal.

- i) 100 mining projects are envisaged to be undertaken during Tenth Plan.
- ii) improvement in equipment utilization.
- iii) timely implementation of projects.
- iv) all new mines being planned with mechanization
- v) increasing productivity in both underground and open cast mines.
- vi) emergency coal production has been planned for increasing production in existing mines/projects.

Further, consumers requiring high grade of coal have to invariably import because the domestic coal is of inferior grade and high grade coal availability is limited.

Pneumoconiosis cases in coal mines

3492. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of cases of pneumoconiosis detected in coal mines in all the subsidiary of Coal India Limited and captive coal mines given to private companies during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken by the coal companies to give them adequate treatment and package of rehabilitation;

(c) the measures being taken by the coal companies to prevent recurrence of pneumoconiosis; and

(d) the role of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) As reported by Coal India Limited, total

number of cases of pneumoconiosis detected in CIL during the last three years is as follows:

	WCL	SECL	MCL	ECL	BCCL	NCL	CCL	NEC	TOTAL
2003	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
2004	0	0	0	1	25	0	0	0	26
2005	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
GRAND TOTAL									30

Government is not aware of cases of pneumoconiosis in workers working in captive mines of private companies.

(b) Coal India Limited has 86 Hospitals where treatment to employees and their eligible dependants is provided. Workers suffering from Pneumoconiosis are paid compensation as per Workmen Compensation Act and shifted from dusty places of work to safer areas.

(c) Preventive measures taken by CIL is as follows:

- i) Regular dust suppression at the place of work and in the mines of all subsidiaries is done.
- ii) Medical surveillance of the workers is done by 68 Periodical Medical Examination (PME) centers in CIL where all the workers are medically examined at least one in every five years for early detection of pneumoconosis and other diseases so that suitable remedial measures can be taken to prevent/arrest progress of the same. Number of PME centers in CIL is as under:—

	WCL	SECL	MCL	ECL	BCCL	NCL	CCL	NEC	TOTAL
No. of PME centres	11	14	3	14	9	3	13	1	68

(d) Safety of workers is monitored by the Government and for this purpose Standing Committee on Safety in coal mines headed by the Minister of Coal has been constituted.