

(b) and (c) Law and Order being a State subject, primarily it is the responsibility of the State/District administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb theft/pilferage of coal. However, Coal India Limited has taken the following steps to check theft/pilferage of coal:

- (i) Check Posts have been established at the vulnerable points.
- (ii) Wall fencing, lighting arrangements and deployment of armed guards round-the-clock has been done around the coal dumping yards.
- (iii) Regular patrolling is conducted in and around the mine including OB dumps.
- (iv) Armed Guards have been deployed at Railway sidings.
- (v) Interaction and liaison with District officials at regular intervals and holding meetings with District Collector & District Administration, every month.
- (vi) Challans for coal transportation by trucks outside the district are being issued after fixing hologram and putting signatures of authorized officials of CISF to check pilferage.
- (vii) Regular FIRs are lodged by the Management of the collieries and CISF with local police stations against the pilferage of coal. A close watch on the activities of criminals is being maintained by CISF.
- (viii) Management has been taking action for filling/dozing/sealing/blasting of the old/abandoned exposed coalfaces in phased manner.

Proposal for allocation of coal blocks

15. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several States/UTs have submitted various proposals for allocation of coal blocks which are lying pending with the Central Government for approval;
- (b) if so, the details of such proposals lying pending during the last three years; and
- (c) by when these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Coal blocks under Government Dispensation route to various Central and State Public Sector Undertakings are made in pursuance to Section 3(3)(a)(i) of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. Allocation of coal blocks is an on-going process. Prior to the year 2005, coal blocks were allocated on the basis of the

requests received from the various companies who used to identify the blocks. However, post 2005, the number of requests were more than the available coal blocks. Accordingly, the identification and earmarking of the coal blocks is done by the Government in consultation with Coal India Limited and CMPDIL. The list of blocks so identified is circulated to all the Central Ministries/State Governments and applications are invited from the State Governments/Central Govt. for Government companies. Under this route, only Government companies are allocated coal blocks both for specified end use, and for commercial mining by the Government companies, where there is no restriction of captive use.

Under this arrangement, allocations are determined on the basis of, *inter-alia*, preference to the States which have not been allocated any coal blocks earlier, priority to the host States in order to encourage value addition within the coal bearing State, past performance of applicants in developing coal blocks, proximity of coal blocks to the proposed end use projects, recommendation / support of State Government concerned etc. Allocation is decided by the Govt. as provided in the Revised Coal Mining Policy, 2001.

During the last three years, the Government have not identified and earmarked coal blocks for allocation under the Government Dispensation route. Hence no applications were invited by the Government from the Central and State Govts. However, requests from State Governments of Punjab, Rajasthan, Orissa, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Goa, Gujarat, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh have been received.

(c) Allocation of coal blocks is an on-going process and as and when the coal blocks are identified and earmarked for allocation, the same are considered for allocation. There is no set time frame for making allocations.

Release of foodgrains to poverty stricken districts

16. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has released five million tonnes of foodgrains for distribution in 150 most poverty-stricken districts or other poorer segments in the country;