

- (b) how so many private operators have started operations within these specified limits;
- (c) the details of such operations in the subsidiary of Coal India Limited;
- (d) the reasons for these illegal activities; and
- (e) by when all these operations would be stopped to contain illegal coal mining?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) There is no such restriction distance-wise specified by law as to private operations in the periphery of Mines.

(b) to (e) Does not arise in view of the reply to (a) above.

#### **Protection of contract workers in MCL**

12. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that thousands of contract labourers, drivers, helpers and other workers are engaged on contractual basis in the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited, Orissa in spite of the prohibition of contract labour engagement in coal mine areas;
- (b) whether these contract workers have no social security, no healthcare facilities, no safety and no duty hour and even they do not get the minimum wages; and
- (c) if so, the steps Government intends to take to address such serious issues?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Coal India Limited (CIL) has informed that no Contract workers are engaged by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) in prohibited categories. Transportation of coal from Pit-head / Coal Handling Plants to sidings is outsourced, which does not come under prohibited category.

(b) and (c) Majority of the Contractors' workers engaged by the Contractors in outsourced jobs which do not come under prohibited category, are covered under Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme and Coal Mines Pension Scheme. Contractors' workers are paid compensation by the

respective contractors under Employees' Compensation Act in case of mine accidents. Safety appliances are provided to the Contractors' workers by the contractors. Coal industry is not a scheduled industry under Minimum Wages Act, 1948. However, the wages being paid to Transport Contractors' workers are more than the minimum wages as notified by Central Govt. from time to time. The wages being paid to other Contractors' workers are at par with the minimum wages as notified by the Central Govt. from time to time. The issue regarding fixing minimum wages for coal industry has already been taken up with the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

**Profit sharing with affected locals**

13. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has finalized the plan to make profit sharing with the affected locals mandatory for the companies in the coal mining sector as a compensation for area damage and displacement;

(b) if so, whether this has been accepted by the coal mining companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of above.

**Theft of coal from coalfields**

14. DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are a number of theft cases in coalfields and the same is being encouraged by the anti social elements in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government has contemplated any plan to prevent theft of coal from the fields; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the follow up steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, theft of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely.