

demand and availability of indigenous coal, the company-wise coal supply plan is formulated for various sectors, including power Utilities.

During the last three years, dispatches of coal to power Utilities from Coal India Limited (CIL) sources were 102%, 96% and 91% of the targets fixed in 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively. In the current financial year, during April to July, 2011, the despatches were 96% of the targets. Despatches during last two years were affected due to frequent law and order problems in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) and constraints of wagon availability during the 3rd and 4th quarters of the year. The despatches during the current year were affected due to constraints relating to election process in April-May, 2011 and heavy rains in June-July-August, 2011.

(c) and (d) As against the estimated coal requirement of 457 million tonnes indicated by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for power utilities during 2011-12, the indigenous coal availability has been estimated at 405 Million Tonnes. Ministry of Power has advised power utilities to import 35 Million Tonnes of coal, which is considered equivalent to about 52 million tonnes of domestic coal in view of high calorific value of the imported coal, to meet the gap between the estimated demand and indigenous availability.

Allocation of coal blocks and coal linkages

3421. SHRI MANGALA KISAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) when the next meeting of standing linkage committee for allocation of coal linkages would be held; and

(b) Since a number of power projects are coming up in Orissa. whether the Ministry along with the Ministry of Power would consider to give priority in allocation of coal blocks and linkages to the companies coming up in the State?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) No date has been fixed for holding the next meeting of the Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term) for allocation of coal linkage/authorization of Letter of Assurance (LoA).

(b) The Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term) for Power, an inter-ministerial committee, considers the applications received by the Ministry of Coal from different States,

including Odisha for setting up power projects. Based on the recommendations of the Ministry of Power and other relevant factors, it recommends authorization of Letter of Assurance for grant of long term coal linkage. However, no state-wise provision is made for making such recommendations. Requests for allocation of coal blocks by public sector companies including PSUs of the State of Odisha, are received from time to time. The allocation of coal blocks under Government Dispensation route is an ongoing process and as and when the coal blocks are identified and earmarked for allocation, the same are considered for allocation. At present, no coal/lignite blocks are on offer for allocation under Government Dispensation route. Hence requests received for allocation of coal blocks are not being considered.

Problems in coal mining areas

3422. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI : Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, due to delay in issue of forest clearances, non completion of contract due to litigations and law and order problems in the coal mining areas targeted production could not be achieved; and

(b) if so, whether a Government proposes to ensure that these problems do not become hurdle in achieving the targeted production for 2011-12?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) The major cause of missing the target of coal production set for the year 2010-11 is the moratorium imposed by Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) for taking new expansion projects in areas having Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) above 70, which included 7 major coalfield areas of CIL. MoEF has now lifted the moratorium in 5 areas. The remaining two coalfields are Korba and Chandrapur.

Other factors responsible for reduced production included adverse law and order situation in the states of Jharkhand and Orissa, non-finalization of some contracts related to production due to Court litigation and excessively high rain fall in WCL areas leading to drowning of a mine.

(b) With a view to resolve these problems, the Ministry of Coal has taken steps to expedite Environment & Forestry clearances, pursue with Ministry of Railways for enhancing availability of rail