

various stages of development. Development of coal blocks involves gestation period of 3 to 7 years for reaching the production stage and another two to three years for reaching the optimal production capacity. The major constraints being faced by the allocatees are (i) delay in setting up end use projects and (ii) time taken for obtaining various clearances for mining and land acquisition.

(c) Coal India has reported that during April-July, 2011, dispatches to NALCO's Captive Power Plant (CPP) and Aluminium plant were 1.828 million tonnes against the pro-rata Annual Contract Quantity (ACQ) of 1.91 million tonnes with 96% materialization. Dispatches to NTPC power stations were 36.622 million tonnes as against the pro-rata ACQ of 40.126 million tonnes with 90% materialization.

(d) The coal stock with Power Stations has increased from 11.517 million tonnes at the end of July, 2010 to 13.164 million tonnes at the end of July, 2011. Coal India Limited has offered to supply 447 million tonnes of coal to Power Utilities in 2011-12 subject to availability of wagons by the Railways at an average of 190.4 rakes per day during the year.

Evacuation facilities for coal production

2795. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a coal shortage situation for the private power developers, where as it has already been pointed out that 50 million tonnes of coal is lying in the coal mine fields and cannot be transported for want of rail rakes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that 10 per cent of India's coal production was lying idle due to want of evacuation facilities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) The subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) were having pithead stocks of about 69.17 million tonnes, as on 1.4.2011. After maintenance of some stock by the coal companies to ensure coal availability in force majeure situations, the remaining stock could have been supplied to consumers including private power developers. CIL has reported that the major reasons for the accumulation of pithead stocks were the frequent law and order problems in Jharkhand and Orissa, constraints in transportation of coal from the pitheads to railway sidings and the lesser availability of railway rakes during the 3rd and 4th quarter of 2010-11.

(c) and (d) While the all India coal production during 2010-11 was 533.076 million tonnes, the total despatches and the closing stock were 523.247 million tonnes and 71.468 million tonnes respectively.

(e) The Hon'ble Minister of Coal *vide* his letter dated 1.6.2011 has written to Chairman, CIL as well as CMDs of CIL subsidiaries to liquidate the pithead stocks to the maximum extent

and to personally monitor the situation. The concerned State Governments have been requested to improve the law and order situation to improve the evacuation of coal.

CIL organized a Rail-Coal interface meeting between the coal companies and the Railways on 30.5.2011 to plan smooth evacuation of coal. An inter-ministerial subgroup under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal also meets regularly to take stock of the coal stock position at power plants and *inter-alia*, suggests measures for liquidation of stocks.

As a result, the subsidiary coal companies of CIL have been able to liquidate 17.74 million tonnes of their pithead stocks during 1.4.2011 to 15.8.2011.

Coal mafia operations

2796. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the recent past, operations of coal mafia including illegal coal lifting from abandoned mines have increased manifold endangering the lives of people in adjoining areas and the workers in Raiganj coalfields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to curb this menace;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) There are no coalfields by the name Raiganj coalfields. However, the cases of illegal lifting/mining of coal by miscreants from abandoned mines have been reported endangering the lives of people in adjoining areas and the workers engaged by them in Raniganj coalfields of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL). However, reports have been received of significant decline in such activities. The ECL do not have any information of coal mafia operating in Raniganj coalfields. Moreover, with the help of Police and CISF, number of miscreants have been arrested who were involved in illegal coal lifting/mining and cases have also been registered against them.

(c) and (e) Mafia activities involve law and order issues which are the concern of the State Governments. There is no report received from the State Governments on mafia activities in coal industry. Whenever any information/complaint is received, the Vigilance Department undertakes a preliminary verification of the same. If, *prima facie*, it appears that there are verifiable facts, a detailed investigation is undertaken by the Chief Vigilance Officer of the concerned coal company. The Chief Vigilance Officer of Coal India Limited co-ordinates their efforts and also undertakes direct investigations through his Officers.

Welfare of employees of coal mines

2797. SHRI KISHORE KUMAR MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state: