

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: