

(b) As per Notifications issued by the Ministry of Labour & Employment from time to time, it is mandatory for the contract labourers engaged by the contractors to be paid minimum wages by the contractors.

Supply of coal

2799. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the thermal power stations of Odisha managed by NTPC, SAIL private companies, etc. are not able to get coal as per their requirements; and

(b) whether Government has any specific rule to give priority in supplying coal to the coal producing States like Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) The coal despatches to Thermal Power Stations in Odisha from Coal India Limited (CIL) sources during April-November 2011 against the contracted quantity stipulated in the Fuel Supply Agreement/Memorandum of Understanding between the coal companies and power stations have been 98% for IB power plant of Orissa Power Generation Corporation (OPGCL), 108% for National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) Talcher power station, 74% for NTPC Talcher Super Thermal Power Station, 104% for Sterlite Thermal Power Station and 93% for Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) Captive Power Plant. Despatch to NTPC Super Thermal Power Station was mainly affected due to inadequate placement of Merry-Go-Round (MGR) rakes by the power station and also due to law and order problem affecting the transportation of coal.

(b) The Coal Distribution Policy of October, 2007 issued by the Ministry of Coal does not envisage any priority in supply of coal to the coal producing States.

Royalty on coal

2800. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel has submitted its reports recommending the increase of royalty on coal to 20 per cent ad valorem;

(b) if so, Government's decision thereon; and

(c) whether Government has considered fixing royalty at 30 per cent ad-valorem with the condition that half of the amount collected should be spent in the development of the local population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration at the Ministry of Coal at present.

Supply of coal to power stations

2801. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that as on 21 November, 2011, 36 power stations of the country, which have total capacity of 44,387 megawatt, had stock for less than four days;

(b) the reasons for reduced supply of coal to power stations by the Coal India Ltd, and its subsidiaries;

(c) the steps taken by Government to restore the supply of coal to power stations and providing them adequate stock; and

(d) to what extent success has been achieved in restoring the law and order situation in the Northern Coalfields Ltd, and the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The overall coal despatches to the power utilities from the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) during April-July 2011 grew by about 5% over the corresponding period of the previous year. However, there was overall decline of coal despatches to the power utilities by about 1% during April - October, 2011 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year. The coal despatches to power utilities were affected severely due to heavy rains during August and