

Indian Mining legislation has been amended/modified several times to accommodate the different articles proposed through various ILO Conventions and recommendations depending up on necessity technology and mechanization and ratified by the Government. National Conference on Safety in mines is also being held from time to time in India to adopt various innovative ideas and concepts developed or envisaged over time both in India as well as in different International forums, Organizations and developed countries for further improvement of the safety standards in Indian mines. Standardization of equipment, tools and appliances used in coal mines is being done as per laid down procedure of Bureau of Indian Standards and subsequently approved by DGMS after satisfying different parameters.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The coal mines safety guidelines are being reviewed regularly as per change in technology, statute, guidelines or safety circulars issued for safety in coal mines and after discussion in various forums as follows :

1. Discussions in the Standing Committee on Safety in Coal Mines under Chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Coal by convening meeting twice a year with all coal companies including private coal companies, DGMS, Ministry of Labour & Employment and National Trade Union Leaders. (35 meetings of this Committee have been held so far.)
2. Regular inspections of mines being conducted by the DGMS to ensure compliance with statutory requirements and safe operating procedures. Safety Policy for ensuring safety in mines and implementation of which is closely monitored at several levels.
3. Establishing a structured multi-disciplinary Internal Safety Organisation to assist the management at various levels related to safety matters.
4. Apex Safety Board representatives of trade unions, DGMS and CMD's of subsidiary coal companies are meeting regularly under chairmanship of Chairman, CIL.

#### **Supply of coal to thermal power plants**

625. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the coal supply has affected the thermal power plants recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the situation is likely to continue for some time; and
- (d) what steps are being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Out of 89 coal based power plants monitored by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) on daily basis, 52 power plants were having critical coal stock position of less than 7 days' consumption, as on 22.11.2011. Out of this, 32 power plants were having super critical stock with less than 3 days' consumption. Dispatches from Coal India Limited (CIL) sources to power utilities during April - October, 2011 were 165.43 Million Tonnes with 88% materialization of 187.07 Million Tonnes committed under Fuel Supply Agreement / Memorandum of Understanding. Coal dispatches to power stations went down during the second quarter of this year mainly due to heavy rains in the coalfields during August/September, severely affecting transportation and wagon loading.

(c) and (d) Coal production generally increases from November of the year and it is expected that dispatches will now increase considerably. Further, coal supplies to power utilities are monitored regularly by an Inter-Ministerial Sub group constituted in the Ministry of Coal and comprising representatives of Ministry of Coal, coal companies, Ministry of Power and Ministry of Railways, which issues suitable instructions for meeting any contingent situations relating to coal supplies to power utilities. Supplies to power stations are also monitored by the Committee on Infrastructure Constraints under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Co-ordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat.

#### **Demand and supply of coal**

626. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, to bridge the ever widening gap between the rising demand for coal and its inadequate supply, the Central Government has decided to import coal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Central Government had a proposal to set up coal regulator in the country to see various issues concerning coal; and