

of the Programme started in Rabi season 2007-08, 4892 demonstrations were carried out and Rs. 21.59 crore were released by the Government of India. During Phase-II of the programme, total fund of Rs. 1431 lakh has been released to carryout 2921 demonstrations out of which 964 have been completed.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Clearances to coal projects

1241. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many coal projects in the country were set to get clearances from various authorities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that due to delay in clearing the coal projects, the coal production in the country has suffered a lot; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) At present, 180 forestry proposals of different subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) involving an area of 28484.49 Ha forest land are awaiting clearances at various levels. Out of 180 proposals, 131 proposals are awaiting approvals for Stage II. Further, 70 applications for environmental clearances are awaiting approvals at various levels.

(c) and (d) For CIL the initially projected production in the terminal year *i.e.* 2011-12 of the Eleventh Plan was 520 Mt. However, the production target was revised downwards to 486 Mt during the Mid-Term Review of Eleventh Plan mainly due to considerable delay in obtaining forestry clearances, tenancy land acquisition and associated Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R and R) issues as well as delay in obtaining environmental clearances in number of projects which were envisaged to contribute during the Eleventh Plan period.

For the Annual Plan 2011-12, CIL's production target was set at 447 Mt but because of further delay caused due to imposition of a moratorium on new and expansion projects in areas having Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index above 70 which included 7 coalfields of CIL.

Pilferage of coal

1242. SHRI BALVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:
SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether instances of pilferage and theft of coal from Government owned mining areas have been registered;

(b) whether similar theft and pilferage have been noticed during the transportation and if so, whether the matter has been taken up with transportation authorities to improve securities;

(c) if so, how many cases have been registered during the last two years and the details of loss incurred during that period;

(d) what steps have been taken to handle such instances; and

(e) whether there is any plan to upgrade the infrastructure to check pilferage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) Theft/pilferage of coal are carried out stealthily and clandestinely. As such, it is not possible to specify the exact quantum of coal stolen and losses incurred on account of theft/pilferage and illegal mining of coal. Coal companies are selling coal on "FOR" basis at railway sidings and road-side points and the choice of mode of transport as well responsibility for coal transportation is that of the purchaser. Pilferage/theft of coal enroute while being transported by consumers to their destinations is outside the control of the coal company.

First Information Reports (FIR) are lodged by the company/CISF officials whenever cases of theft come to their notice. 346 and 169 FIRs have been lodged during the year 2009-10 and 2010-11 respectively by the subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd.

(d) and (e) The following measures are taken to prevent pilferage/theft of coal by the coal companies:

- (i) Check Posts have been established at the vulnerable points.
- (ii) Wall fencing, lighting arrangements and deployment of armed guards round-the-clock has been done around the coal dumping yards.
- (iii) Regular patrolling is conducted in and around the mine including Over Burden dumps.
- (iv) Armed Guards have been deployed at Railway sidings.
- (v) Interaction and liaison with District Officials at regular intervals and holding meetings with District Collector and District Administration every month.
- (vi) Challans for coal transportation by trucks outside the district are being issued after fixing hologram and putting signatures of authorized officials of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) to check theft.
- (vii) Regular FIRs are lodged by the Management of the collieries and CISF with local police stations against the theft of coal. A close watch on the activities of criminals is being maintained by CISF.

- (viii) Global Positioning System (GPS) has introduced to track the coal transportation from mine to unloading place.
- (ix) Electronic weighbridge for weighment of coal has been introduced.
- (x) Management has been taking action for filling/dozing/scaling/blasting of the old/abandoned exposed coalfaces in passed manner.

Coal production

†1243. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the coal production is declining owing to monopoly of the Coal India Ltd.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is formulating any policy to augment the coal production; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. All India coal production has increased from 430.832 million tonnes during 2006-07 to 532.694 million tonnes during 2010-11. The coal production by CIL has also increased from 360.91 million tonnes to 431.32 million tonnes during this period.

(c) and (d) In order to augment production of coal, Government has been taking a series of measures including steps to expedite Environment and Forestry clearances, pursue with Ministry of Railways for enhancing availability of rail rakes and approach State Government for necessary assistance in land acquisition and in problems relating to law and order. In addition, a number of steps have been taken by Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries for augmenting coal production which include (i) increasing the efficiency of the equipments, regular monitoring, mechanization as programmed and strict supervision of the existing mines and ongoing projects (ii) Capacity addition from new and future projects (iii) Consistent efforts for resolving issues of environmental and forestry clearances, land acquisition and law and order problems.

Meeting of Group of Ministers

†1244. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the held-up projects relating to coal have been reconsidered in the meeting of Group of Ministers; and;
- (b) if so, the details of projects that have been given approval, State-wise?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.