

- (b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) the action taken by Government against those responsible; and
- (d) the steps taken to prevent recurrence of such incidence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) In case of Takli Jena Bellora (South Part) coal block allocated to M/s Central Collieries Company Ltd. (a private company) for captive use, the sale of coal in open market was reported to the Government. The Government after following the due procedure has since declared the mining lease of the said block as void. No other incident of sale of coal from the allocated blocks for captive use has been reported to the Government.

(d) In the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, there is no provision of sale of coal from the coal blocks allotted for captive use. In case of violation, the Government takes appropriate action against the allocattee company including de-allocation of the block.

Curbing illegal coal mining

1254. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that natural resources of the country are being plundered at the cost of national economy and destruction of environment and the business of illegal coal mining has been thriving for decades in various States with the connivance of police, mafias, middlemen and administrative officials;

(b) whether it is also a fact that officials responsible to curb illegal coal mining are either indifferent or too scared to stop the meance; and

(c) if so, the quantum of coal looted during the decade and the measures taken to check illegal coal mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) Law and Order is a State subject, hence primarily, it is the responsibility of the State/District administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb illegal mining. Illegal mining of coal is carried out clandestinely and stealthily and as such it is not possible to specify the exact quantum of coal stolen losses incurred on this account.

The steps taken by coal companies to prevent illegal mining are:

- (i) Rat holes created by illegal mining are dozed off and filled up with stone and debris whenever possible.
- (ii) Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.
- (iii) Regular raids/checks being conducted by security personnel and static security pickets including armed guards during the night hours are being deployed at pithead depots.

- (iv) Surprise raids/checks being conducted jointly by security personnel and law and order authorities or the concerned State Government.
- (v) Fencing is being constructed at the various illegal mining sites along with displaying signboards mentioning "Dangerous and Prohibited Place".
- (vi) Dumping the over burden is done on the outcrop zones, which are not required to be mined.
- (vii) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing District authorities of the same for taking preventive action.
- (viii) Installation of check posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.
- (ix) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training to CISF personnel and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security set up.
- (x) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State Government.
- (xi) Committee/task force has been constituted at different level (block level, sub-divisional level, district and state level) at some subsidiaries of CIL to monitor different aspects of illegal mining.
- (xii) In order to check the menace of illegal mining of coal the Central Government has constituted a Committee consisting of Minister of State for Coal and others to look into the various aspects of illegal mining of coal.

Patch work in CIL

1255. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of patch work done through contractor in the Coal India Limited (CIL) during the last three years, subsidiary-wise;
- (b) whether the simultaneous reclamation was done;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Coal production

1256. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is acute shortage for coal in the country;