

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTION**

**Shortage of coal in domestic market**

2636. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new guidelines issued by the Ministry of Environment and Forests is blocking the production of approx. 200 MT of coal per year;

(b) if so, whether it would not make shortage of coal in the domestic market; and

(c) if so, the details of steps being taken by Government to increase the production to ensure proper supply as per demand of coal in the domestic market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Due to the embargo on account of comprehensive environmental pollution index (CEP) imposed by Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) with effect from January, 2010, Coal India Limited (CIL) reported an impact on coal production to the tune of about 15.83 million tonnes (MT) in 2010- 11 from 12 projects and about 39 MT from 17 projects in 2011-12.

MoEF's circular dated 31.3.2011 mandates sequential approval of forestry clearance (FC) and environmental clearance (EC) where forest land diversion is involved. 15 such proposals of CIL for a capacity of 45 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) are awaiting consideration at MoEF/State levels. These proposals will get affected in case there is delay in obtaining Stage-I Forestry Clearance. In addition to above, 48 proposals are also awaiting for EC at State/MoEF levels. The aggregate EC capacity involved for these projects is 119 MTPA. Further, 132 proposals for Stage-I FC and 48 proposals for Stage-II FC with a total production capacity of 394 MTPA are also awaiting clearance.

Any delay in processing of proposals for EC and FC will impact envisaged production plans of CIL.

(c) The various measures taken to increase coal production in the country include the following:

- (i) Modernization and mechanization of the existing underground (UG) and opencast (OC) mines;
- (ii) Vigorous monitoring of ongoing projects at both Government level as well as coal company level;
- (iii) Regular follow up with the State and Central Authorities at the highest level to address the issues related to environment, land acquisition and rehabilitation;

- (iv) Vigorous monitoring of development of captive mines;
- (v) Regular monitoring of development of infrastructure for coal evacuation etc.

#### **Shortage of coas in power stations**

†2637. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Central Government supplies coal for operation of power generating stations in the States;
- (b) if so, the criteria thereof and the details of the States along with the amount of coal given to each of them according to the criteria;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the power production has been affected in some States due to inadequate supply of coal; and
- (d) if so, the details of the States who have made such a complaint and the details of steps being taken by Government with a view to resolve the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) The Standing Linkage Committee (SLC) (Long Term) for Power, an inter-ministerial committee, under the aegis of Ministry of Coal, comprising representatives from Ministries of Power, Railways, Central Electricity Authority and Coal companies amongst others recommends issuance of Letter of Assurance (LoA) for release of coal to power generation centres located in the States of the Country. Based on such recommendations, coal companies issue LoAs. The LoAs, on achievement of requisite milestones, mature into Fuel Supply Agreements for delivery of coal by the coal companies.

(b) The quantity of coal that would be required by a power generation unit is decided on the basis of the norms fixed by the Ministry of Power, taking into consideration the generation capacity of the unit and quality of coal. The source of supply of coal is decided taking into consideration the long-term availability and the logistic facilities available for movement of coal. The decision is taken power generation unit-wise and the criteria is uniform across all the states in the country.

(c) and (d) Information on state-wise report of power generation affected due to less supply of coal is not available. However, requests are received from time to time from the power stations run by Central, State and private Generating Companies, for augmenting the supplies for building up coal stock at power stations.

Coal supplies to Power Utilities are regularly, monitored by an inter-Ministerial Sub-Group constituted in the Ministry of Coal, comprising representatives of Ministry of Coal, Coal Companies, Ministry of Power and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.