

- (viii) Surprise re-weighment of coal laden trucks is done, at weighbridges.
- (ix) Escorting of coal rakes in coordination with RPF up-to weighbridge, is arranged in pilferage prone areas.
- (x) Challans for coal transportation by trucks outside the district are issued after fixing hologram and putting signatures of authorized officials of CISF to check pilferage.
- (xi) Regular FIRs are lodged by the Management of the collieries and CISF with local Police Station against the pilferage/theft of coal.
- (xii) Inter-action and liaison with District officials at regular intervals. As such the State Governments have a critical role in stopping/curbing such thefts.

Underground and open cast mining

2328. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) how many underground mines are running in the Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL);
- (b) why the number is decreasing day by day;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to run only open cast projects in ECL; and
- (d) if so, details therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Eighty two (82) underground mines are in operation in Easter Coalfields Ltd. (ECL).

- (b) The underground mines are decreasing due to exhaustion of reserves, thinning of coal seam, occurrence of fire, etc.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Pensionary Benefits in CIL

2329. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state: