

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) Some reduction in flow has been observed in downstream of storages on various rivers wherever water is being diverted for drinking and irrigation purposes. However, as per the data analysed by Central Water Commission (CWC), the observed data of average water availability in major rivers before 1985 and after 1985, no trend could be established regarding reduction in average water availability in the river basin.

(d) With a view to augmenting the water resources for utilization for various purposes, several measures are undertaken by respective State Governments which, *inter-alia*, include conservation of water resources through reservoir, traditional water bodies, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water. Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments in this regard through various schemes and programmes.

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#### SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

##### Fire in Jharia Coalfields

4. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:
- (a) whether it is a fact that Jharia Coalfield is facing 100 years old fire;
  - (b) the number of coal mines affected due to fire in Jharia;
  - (c) the details of possible loss to the Government exchequer, till date, and steps taken by the Government to control the fire;
  - (d) the details of amount spent till date, by Government;
  - (e) whether it is a fact that pollution caused by such fire affects air, water and land and the smoke from such fires causes several lung and skin diseases; and
  - (f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to control the fire;

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

*Statement*

- (a) In Jharia Coalfield, the first incidence of fire was reported in the year 1916 from XIV seam of Bhowrah colliery.
- (b) According to the assessment made, BCCL inherited 70 mine fires at the time of nationalisation of coal and since then, due to some concerted efforts by BCCL, 10 fires could be liquidated completely and other fires were kept under control by and large. In the mean time, 7 more fires have been identified in JCF. Presently there are 67 fires spread over in 41 collieries of BCCL and are grouped into 45 fire projects.
- (c) According to the Master Plan of Jharia Coalfield, it was estimated that about 37 MT of prime coking coal has been destroyed and about 1864 MT of coal was originally locked up due to these fires. As on date, due to some concerted efforts by BCCL, some of the fire could be extinguished totally and the locked up coal reserve has been reduced to 1453 million tonnes.

The percentage recovery of the locked up coal in the fire prone area can not be predicted at this juncture.

- (d) The Master Plan for dealing with fire, subsidence and rehabilitation in the lease hold of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) has been approved by Government of India in the year 2009 with an indicative estimated expenditure of Rs. 7112.11 crore which includes Rs. 2311.50 crore for dealing with fire.

The fund disbursed for controlling fire is Rs. 16.00 crores. However, JRDA has released Rs. 111 crores under Master Plan for various activities.

- (e) There is no reported case of such disease.
- (f) Government of India approved the Master Plans for Jharia Coalfield (updated in April, 2008) for dealing with fire, subsidence and rehabilitation in the lease hold of BCCL in August, 2009 with an estimated capital of Rs. 7112.11 crore which includes a provision of

Rs. 2311.50 crores for dealing with fire. The implementation of the Master Plans consists of the following three broad heads:

1. Dealing with fires
2. Rehabilitation of inhabited sites from endangered areas
3. Diversion of rail and road and other surface infrastructures.

Time-frame for implementation as delineated in the Master Plan is 12 years including 2 years of pre implementation period.

The Masterplan is presently under implementation and being monitored regularly by subsidiary company, Coal India headquarters and also by High Powered Central Committee (HPCC) under the Chairmanship of Secretary Coal, Ministry of Coal, Government of India. The progress of implementation is also reviewed by the Minister of Coal time to time.

Ministry of Coal has taken up the issue of expediting land acquisition by both JRDA and ADDA through Government of Jharkhand and West Bengal respectively. Further Ministry of Coal has also written to Railway Board for expediting the approval of railway line diversion proposals from endangered area.

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MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Y.S. Chowdary *...(Interruptions)...* Not present. *...(Interruptions)...* Would anybody like to raise supplementaries? *...(Interruptions)...* Don't do that. *...(Interruptions)...* This is against the rules. *...(Interruptions)...* Does anybody want to raise supplementaries? *...(Interruptions)...* There seems to be no supplementaries. So, I am moving on to the next item.

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**STATEMENT BY MINISTER CORRECTING ANSWER TO QUESTION**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): Sir, I lay on the Table, a Statement (in English and Hindi) correcting the answer to Unstarred Question 2749 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 30th April, 2012 regarding 'Eviction of tenants by BBMB'.