

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL) : (a) and (b) No coal blocks have come into production that were allocated in 2011.

(c) As per the guidelines, coal production from captive coal block should commence within 36 months (42 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of open cast mines and in 48 months (54 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of underground mine, from the date of allocation. If the coal block is not explored, additional two years are allowed for detailed exploration and three months for preparation of geological report. The allocatees of coal blocks, who have not started production so far, are in various stages of obtaining statutory clearances and mining lease, preparing mining plan, acquisition of land, procuring machinery and equipment etc. for both mining as well as end-use project.

Underground and opencast mining in Patkai

1708. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) the reserve of explorable coal, both underground and opencast mining, in the Patkai Range of Assam;
- (b) the annual quantity of coal explored by each method, earning as a result thereof and the amount paid to Assam Government as royalty during the last five years; and
- (c) the area covered by each of the methods, year-wise, and the area under reclamation during that period the extent of pollution and pollution control measures undertaken as well as amount utilized for reclamation, afforestation and pollution control measures, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL) : (a) As per the latest National Inventory on Indian Coal Resources published by Geological Survey of India, as on 01.04.2012, the total coal resources of Patkai Range of Assam is 506.81 Million Tonnes.

(b) The quantity of coal exploited by underground and opencast mining during five years in North Eastern Coalfields (NEC) is as follows :

NEC undertakes environment monitoring through Assam Pollution Control Board (APCB) approved environmental laboratory Evirocon, Digboi. Various parameters prescribed by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) are monitored for water, air and noise pollution. The report is prepared quarterly and submitted to Regional Office, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Shillong. The report is also uploaded on the website of NEC. As per all the reports submitted, the value of various polluting parameters are below the norms prescribed in the CPCB guidelines.

The Pollution control measures undertaken in NEC includes (i) afforestation of Over-burden dumps and greenbelt development by planting one lakh saplings every year of native species, (ii) saplings are grown in the NEC nursery at Margherita, (iii) treatment of effluent mine water at effluent treatment plant of each mine, (iv) construction of boulder check dam, gully plugging, toe wall, earthen embankments, garland drains, half-moon terracing at Over-burden dumps to check soil erosion, (v) barricades and garland drain around coal dumps to stop run off coal particle due to rain water, (vi) water sprinkling coal dumps, haul roads for dust suppression, (vii) controlled blasting technology applied to prevent air borne dust generation, (viii) creation of habitats for wild life such as butterfly park and orchid garden at Tikak, (ix) transpiration of coal in tarpaulin covered trucks and box wagons to prevent air borne dust generation, (x) monitoring of occupational health diseases by periodical medical examination of every worker in every five years, (xi) Provision of ear-plugs, dust arrestor to field level workers, and (xii) disposal of bio-medical wastages as Bio-medical Rules, 1998.

The detail of amount utilised for pollution control measures for the last five years is given below :

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Year	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Amount	19.09	17.55	51.70	81.18	208.36

Fuel supply agreements

1709. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Limited (CIL) has agreed to enter into Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs) with power companies even if they do not have electricity purchase agreements in place;