

of Rajasthan would be considered along with the other applicant Government companies.

**Poor coal supply to power sector in Bihar**

3570. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the poor supply of coal to power sector in Bihar led to disruption of supply of power recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action has been taken by the Central Government to ensure smooth supply of coal to avoid disruption of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There are three power plants in Bihar which are drawing coal from Coal India Limited (CIL) sources viz., Barauni TPS and Muzaffarpur (Kanti) TPP, both of Bihar State Electricity Board (BSEB) and Kahalgaon TPS of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). BSEB has requested for suspension of supply for Barauni & Muzaffarpur TPPs as these are under renovation and modernization. Accordingly, coal supply to these TPPs stands suspended at present as per their request. As regards Kahalgaon TPS, coal despatch from CIL sources in 2012-13 has been 11.93 Million Tonnes (Provisional) which is 123% of 9.69 Million Tonnes committed under Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA)/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

(c) Coal supplies to Power Utility sector is monitored regularly by an Inter-Ministerial Sub-Group comprising representatives of Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Railways constituted by the Infrastructure Review Committee of Cabinet Secretariat. This Sub-Group takes various operational decisions for smooth coal supplies to power utilities and for meeting any contingent situations relating to Power sector including critical coal stock position.

**Prices of high quality coal**

3571. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has decided to slash prices of its high quality coal which has become costlier than prevailing market rate globally;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether this move comes at a time when consumers are shunning high quality coal and it will also benefit cement and sponge iron companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) The landed price of high quality imported coal (export) is higher than the price fetched by Coal India Limited (CIL) for its high quality ex-coliery domestic coal. As informed by CIL, any immediate slash in prices of high quality coal produced by it is not envisaged.

**Monopoly of CIL in coal mining**

†3572. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Limited has monopoly in the field of coal mining in the country;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the National Thermal Power Corporation has complained regarding much amalgamation of stone and ash in coal;

(d) if so, whether Government has tried to unearth the truth by an investigation through a Non-Governmental Organisation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Coal India Limited (CIL) is the single largest coal producing company in the country. There are some other coal producing companies in India like Singareni Coal Company Limited (SCCL) in Andhra Pradesh, other joint venture companies and private entrepreneurs etc.

(c) to (e) CIL and its subsidiary coal companies received some complaints from NTPC regarding oversized coal and coal mixed with some stones/ boulders which altogether cannot be ruled out due to unique geomining conditions/ factors present in Indian coal seams.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.