

(iii) Poor performance by outsourcing agencies in overburden removal at RG OC-III and KTK OC mines (SCCL) affected the overall performance.

(c) and (d) The following measures are taken by the Government to increase the coal production:

- Emphasis on modernization and technology development and coal quality improvement.
- Emphasis on infrastructure development.
- Periodical review of development of coal blocks.
- Development of some of the coal blocks assigned to CIL through engaging Mine Development & Operator (MDO).
- Periodical review of on going projects.
- Constant persuasion with Ministry of Railways for expeditious implementation of critical rail lines projects & improved supply of rakes.
- Regular persuasion with the State Governments on the pending issues and law & order problems.
- Regular interaction with line Ministries and State Governments for clearing Environment and Forest clearances for new projects.

Shortage of coal

3574. SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is a shortage of coal in the country, at present;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to import coal to tide over the situation;
- (d) if so, the sources thereof and the likely cost per metric tonne at which it is likely to be made available in the country; and
- (e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to ensure regular supply of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) The production of coal in the country in the current year is short of overall demand for the same. The total production of raw coal in the country during 2012-13 was 557.5 million tonnes. As per available information 110.42 million tonnes of coal was imported during April-January, 2013, thus meeting the gap between overall demand and domestic availability of coal during that period.

It is estimated that there will remain a gap between demand and domestic production even by the terminal year of Twelfth Five Year Plan which will need to be met through import.

(d) and (e) During 2012-13 (upto Jan. 2013) the India imported coal mainly from Indonesia, Australia, South Africa and USA. As such, coal is placed under Open General Licence (OGL) and can be imported at prevailing international prices by anyone paying the applicable import duty. Apart from allowing import of coal, in order to improve the supply of coal.

The Government has taken measures to step up domestic production to the extent feasible through the following measures which include:

- Emphasis on modernization and technology development and coal quality improvement.
- Emphasis on infrastructure development.
- Periodical review of development of coal blocks.
- Development of some of the coal blocks assigned to CIL through engaging Mine Development & Operator (MDO).
- Periodical review of on going projects.
- Constant persuasion with Ministry of Railways for expeditious implementation of critical rail lines & improved supply of rakes.
- Regular persuasion with the State Governments on the pending issues and law & order problems.
- Regular interaction with line Ministries and State Governments for clearing Environment and Forest clearances for new projects.