

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Acquisition of overseas coal blocks by CIL**

1. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a Rs. 42,000 crores reserve, Coal India Ltd. is planning to acquire overseas coal blocks;

(b) whether the Coal Videsh is considering the prevailing low asset valuation of many such coal block in Indonesia, Australia and South Africa as the most opportune time to invest overseas; and

(c) what is the status of exploration of coal blocks as acquired long back by the Coal Videsh in Mozambique?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) CIL has made an ad-hoc provision of Rs. 25,000 crores in the Twelfth Plan period for acquisition of coal assets abroad. However, the fund shall be spent only upon identification and acquisition of a suitable coal asset in foreign countries.

(b) CIL has floated a global expression of interest in the month of February, 2013 inviting owners of coal assets or their representatives and investment bankers to bring proposals to CIL for acquiring coal assets abroad.

(c) CIL is carrying out exploration programme in coal blocks of Mozambique through its wholly owned subsidiary registered in Mozambique, namely, Coal India Africana Limitada (CIAL). The 1st stage of drilling comprising of 10,000 m has been completed and the 2nd stage of drilling comprising of 30,000 m is under progress. The geological mapping of the area falling under the coal block has been completed and the majority of survey work for delineation of the boundary has also been completed. The exploration programme is expected to be completed by mid 2014, subsequent to which future strategies for coal mine development will be decided.

Supply of coal to power projects

2. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the supply of coal to power projects is lagging behind in spite of having proper Fuel Supply Agreements;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether, in apprehension that delay in coal supply will have a detrimental impact on power projects which leads to further increase in banks NPAs or bank loans, the Finance Ministry has asked to prioritise coal supplies to power projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Ministry to provide uninterrupted coal supply to power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) In 2012-13, as against supply plan target of 342.31 Million Tonnes finalised by Ministry of Coal as part of Annual Action Plan, despatches to power utility sector from Coal India Limited (CIL) to power stations in the country was at 343.79 Million Tonnes (Provisional) with a growth of more than 10% over the previous year.

CIL has guaranteed to supply 90% of Annual Contract Quantity (ACQ) for Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) commissioned prior to 31.03.2009 and 80% of ACQ for TPPs commissioned after 31.3.2009. The supply of 343.79 Million Tonnes to power utilities in the country in 2012-13 has been 91.5% of commitment under Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA)/Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) of 375.82 Million Tonnes. In current year (up to Jun'13), coal supply to power utility sector has been 86.39 MT which is 87.8% of commitment under FSA/MOU of 96.41 MT.

Further, coal stock with power stations has gone up from 14.14 MT equivalent to 11 days' requirement as on 01.04.2012 to 19.75 MT equivalent to 14 days' requirement as on 01.04.2013 and further to 22.02 MT equivalent to 18 days' requirement as on 29.07.2013. Presently, as on 29.07.2013, 65 TPPs are carrying coal stock equivalent to more than 15 days' requirement and as a result, quite a few power stations have started regulating coal supplies to avoid further build up of stock at their end.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply given in (a) to (c) above.

(e) In addition to the monitoring mechanism available at coal companies and CIL, 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 suggests various decisions to ensure uninterrupted coal supplies to power utilities and for meeting any contingent situations relating to Power sector including critical coal stock position.

Pollution of rivers by CIL

3. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether subsidiary companies of the Coal India Limited (CIL) including CCL & BCCL are polluting the rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has conducted any investigation in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by CIL and its subsidiary companies to check the pollution of rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Mines and washeries of Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries take all necessary safeguards as per Environmental Management Plan (EMP) approved by Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) to prevent pollution to rivers, streams etc.

(c) and (d) Officials of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB) periodically inspect the rivers and streams at the mine water discharge points. Officials of MoEF also inspect at different interval. The quality of rivers and streams are regularly monitored as per the monitoring norms laid down by the Pollution Control Board/MoEF and quarterly monitoring data are submitted to the statutory bodies.

(e) Subsidiary companies of Coal India Ltd take various steps as per EIA/