

None of the State Governments have expressed their inability to get the coal mines started.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a).

(c) Commencement of mining operations in a coal mine auctioned and allotted under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 needs several clearances/approvals/permissions which *inter alia* includes Approval of Mining Plan, Approval of Mine Closure Plan, Forest Clearance, Grant of Mining Lease, Consent to Establish under Environment Protection Act, License for use of Explosives, Opening of Escrow Account, Ground Water Clearance etc., which are required to be obtained post auction/allotment from various departments/ministries/agencies viz. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Directorate General of Mines Safety, Coal Controller and State Governments etc.

CSR activity funded by ECL

1610. SHRI SANJIV KUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL) has undertaken any activity from its funds earmarked for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) based on the recommendations of any Member of Parliament;

(b) if so, the nature of such activities undertaken during the last three years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) undertakes activities under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) on the basis of needs identified through Base Line Survey by Tata Institute of Social Science, Mumbai. Proposals received in this regard are examined, recommended by Area CSR Committee and Corporate CSR Committee on CSR and Sustainability and then approved by Area CSR Committee. The nature of activities undertaken during the last three (3) financial years on the basis of recommendations of Hon'ble Members of Parliament has been predominantly related to water supply.

Ponds for conservation of water

1611. SHRIMATI SAROJINI HEMBRAM: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is planning to make more number of ponds in different parts of the country to meet the demands of drinking water and to overcome the problem of scarcity of water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the various steps taken in this regard, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): (a) to (c) Rural Water Supply is a State subject. This Ministry supplements the efforts of the States to provide drinking water supply by rendering technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) in rural areas of the country.

The States have been advised to achieve the sustainable water storage capacity by shifting from over dependence on ground water to improving traditional surface water sources which includes ponds, rivers, dams, lakes, streams, canals, and irrigation channels.

Further, under NRDWP 10% of the allocation is for sustainability component to be used exclusively to achieve drinking water security by adopting conjunctive use of surface water, rain water and groundwater and construction of water recharging structures with major emphasis on water quality affected areas, over-exploited, critical and semi-critical areas as specified by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), and any other area that the State Government has identified as water stressed area.

In a recent direction to the Chief Secretaries of States which are facing drinking water scarcity due to drought the Ministry has asked them to formulate an Integrated State Action Plan and conserve as much rainwater as possible in the coming monsoon to ease the conditions of drought in the affected areas by pooling resources from flagship programmes like Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), Repair, Restoration and Renovation (RRR), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (MGNREGA), National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP).

Technical and financial assistance for supply of pure potable water

1612. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL:

SHRI K. C. TYAGI:

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes under which financial assistance is provided to the States for supply of pure potable water by Government;

(b) the names of districts of Maharashtra which have been provided such financial assistance during the last two years; and