

Further Coal India Limited has taken several steps to improve the quality of coal sold, which include:-

- (i) Deployment of more number of Surface Miners to facilitate selective mining.
- (ii) Fifteen washeries have been planned for installation with annual capacity of 112.60 Million Tons.
- (iii) Selective mining of bands of more than one meter thickness.
- (iv) Appropriate positioning of Over Burden (OB) and coal benches to avoid contamination.
- (v) Scrapping/cleaning of coal benches before blasting.
- (vi) Supply of crushed coal of (-)100 mm, etc.

In addition, third-party sampling has been introduced to minimize and resolve disputes regarding quality.

Pollution caused due to coal mining

†2304. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pollution, caused due to coal mining by Coal India Ltd. in different coal zones in Jharkhand, is causing great damage to environment and the citizens have to face serious health hazards;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many coal companies situated in that State are not following the standards of controlling pollution; and

(c) if so, the steps Government proposes to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The pollution caused in the coal mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) situated in the State of Jharkhand is within the permissible limits. Also CIL/ its subsidiary companies are taking all the necessary mitigative measures as per the provisions of the approved Environment Management Plans.

(c) Does not arise in view of the reply given to parts (a) and (b) above.

Fire in coal block in Pachwara

†2305. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the incident of fire took place in the seam of Pachwara central coal block situated at Amrapadra in Pakur district of Jharkhand;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.