

(c) In order to ensure synergy between the power and the coal sectors, the Government has also taken the following measures to reduce the cost of power:

- (i) The availability of coal is regularly monitored at the highest level resulting in increased supply of domestic coal.
- (ii) Coal blocks have been allotted to certain power utilities to improve domestic coal availability.
- (iii) Rationalization of coal linkages.
- (iv) Allowing coal swaps from inefficient to efficient plants.
- (v) Correction in coal grades through reassessment.
- (vi) Correction in grade slippage through third party sampling.
- (vii) 100% crushed coal is supplied from Coal India Limited.
- (viii) Coal India will supply 100% washed coal of G10 grade and above from 1st October 2018 as per MoEF guidelines.
- (ix) NTPC has achieved savings of approximately 30 paise/unit (approximately ₹ 550 cr/month) due to rationalization of coal linkage/reduction of imports. Further, due to various efficiency measures *e.g.* reduction in grade slippage, installation of new super critical units, the specific coal consumption (coal consumed/unit) in 1st quarter of financial year 2016-17 has come down by 2.9% as compared to corresponding quarter in previous financial year.

Best quality coal mines in Meghalaya

†3. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the best quality coal mines are available in Meghalaya;
- (b) if so, whether the coal mining has been banned in the State;
- (c) if so, when this ban was imposed and the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether Government would consider to start mining work resolving the reasons of ban; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) High quality coals in thin seams occur in mines in Meghalaya State.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (e) National Green Tribunal (NGT) in its order dated 17.04.2014, directed the Chief Secretary, Government of Meghalaya and the Director General of Police, State of Meghalaya to ensure that rat-hole mining/illegal mining in Meghalaya is stopped forthwith and no illegal transport of coal takes place.

Government of Meghalaya, Mining and Geology Department had forwarded a copy of draft Mining Guidelines for regulating coal mining activities in Meghalaya as ordered by NGT. However, the guidelines submitted by the Government of Meghalaya were not in conformity with the existing statutory provisions of MMDR Act, 1957. Hence the Government of Meghalaya was asked to reframe the guidelines. Government of Meghalaya has not submitted modified guidelines.

Rehabilitation of farmers affected by Singareni Collieries

4. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that farmers affected by Singareni Collieries OCP-4 project have not been rehabilitated properly; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to help the victims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Medapalli Opencast Mine in Ramagundem-I Area of Karimnagar District which is locally known as OCP-4 is in operation with remaining life of 4 to 5 years only. No such issue of rehabilitation is involved in this mine.

Transportation of coal

5. DR. K. V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to ship the coal through coasts;

(b) if so, the details and the findings thereof; and

(c) whether shipping of coal through coast is considered economic than through railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) As part of the National Perspective Plan, April 2016, coastal shipping potential of 140 MMTPA of coal has been identified. The identified potential will be from despatch of coal from the mines of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited in Odisha to the coastal power plants in Southern and Western Maritime States using the rail-sea-rail route.