

(c) to (e) On account of increased production by Coal India Ltd. (CIL) in 2015-16, coal imports have fallen from 217.78 MTs in 2014-15 to 199.88 MTs in 2015-16. As per the current import policy, coal is kept under Open General License (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal from the source of their choice as per their contractual prices on payment of applicable duty.

Curbing unlawful excavation of coal by CCL

489. SHRI A. U. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) has failed to control unlawful coal mining within its areas of operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the measures taken by CCL to curb the same;

(c) whether Government has taken any action against the coal companies which has been employing children in coal mines, as per recent reports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):

(a) Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) is taking adequate preventive measures to curb unlawful excavation of coal from its command areas. In CCL, as and when any incident of coal pilferage within the command area is detected/noticed, FIR by concerned Area Management is lodged with local Police Station immediately. Whenever an incident is reported, immediate action for its prevention is taken.

(b) The measures taken by CCL to curb the unlawful excavation of coal are as follows:

- (i) Check Posts have been erected at vulnerable points.
- (ii) Frequent Surprise Check/Raid is conducted by Security team periodically with District Police Force to prevent coal theft.
- (iii) Regular and intensive patrolling is carried out.
- (iv) Strengthening of security by deploying Departmental Guards, DGR Sponsored Security personnel, Jharkhand State Home Guards and CISF personnel.
- (v) Liaison with the District Authority is maintained continuously and monthly review meeting is held with concerned DCs/Commissioners which are attended

by the authorities of Police and State Administration as well as the CGMs/GMs of the concerned Area of CCL to prevent coal pilferage.

- (vi) Security Guards are posted round the clock by the CCL Management in all the Railway Siding who ensure proper handing over of coal dispatch to the Railway Authority in the related siding/dispatch point.

Effective liaison is also maintained with administration and police for maintaining law and order in the respective Railway siding and to check the coal pilferage/illegal trading.

(c) and (d) There has been no case of employment of children by Coal India Limited.

Operationalisation of Coal Blocks allocated to Steel and Power Sector

490. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal blocks / mines allocated to steel and power sector industries through auction after the recent amendments in the laws;

(b) the details of mines which have become operational out of them and the quantity of coal extracted from them;

(c) whether some mines have not become operational; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):

(a) and (b) Allocation of 204 coal mines/blocks cancelled by Hon'ble Supreme Court are made under the provisions of Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the Rules made there under. Under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015, 83 coal mines have been allocated for specified end uses which includes Power, Steel, Cement and Captive Power Production as well as for sale of coal. Out of the 83, 31 coal mines (17 Schedule II & 14 Schedule III) have been allocated through auction. For the purpose of auction, specified end-uses other than power *viz.* Iron & Steel, Cement and Captive Power Plants have been clubbed as "Non-Regulated Sector". The Government has so far successfully auctioned 22 coal mines to the 'Non-Regulated Sector' and 9 coal mines for specified end use 'Power' under the said Act, the details of which are given in the Statement (*See below*).

Out of the 17 Schedule II coal mines auctioned under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 which were operational before cancellation by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, mining operations have commenced / mine opening permission granted in 10 Schedule II coal mines. In addition, 1 Schedule III coal mine is also