

**Impact of demonetization on road cargo revenues**

\*45. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of cargo booked by road since 2014 till date;
- (b) whether there has been revenue loss to the road cargo companies after the 8th November, 2016 and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the problems faced by the truck drivers who were on road when demonetisation was announced, State/UT-wise; and
- (d) the details of fall in the road cargo bookings and business contracts by various cargo companies in the country post demonetisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): (a) to (d) Data regarding cargo booking by road and business contracts entered into by cargo companies are not maintained by the Central Government.

To mitigate the problems faced by the transporters, a decision was taken to waive user fee collection on National Highways from 9th November, 2016 to 1st December, 2016. On resumption of user fee collection from 2nd December, 2016, Ministry facilitated to collections by introducing e-tolling and other digital solutions.

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**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS****Plan to end dependency on coal imports**

317. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN:

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is working on a plan to end dependency on coal imports in the next 3-4 months to facilitate consumption of the surplus fossil fuel produced by Coal India Limited (CIL);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the CIL is facing problems to liquidate its surplus coal; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The coal demand has been on the lower side due to less demand for higher grade coal available with ECL and SECL, high level of pithead stock with CIL on account of lower demand, comfortable coal stock with Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) and occasional regulated lifting by some TPPs who preferred to use the stock as available with them. CIL has taken up the issue with power utilities for import substitution. Coal is also offered under Special Forward e-Auction for TPPs not having FSA with CIL sources. TANGEDCO, NTPC, NTECL-Vallur, and NTPL-Tuticorin have agreed for import substitution by using higher grade domestic coal with suitable blending of higher and lower grade coal. Import by power sector has declined to 50.02 Million Tonnes (MT) during Apr-Dec'16 as against 61.73 MT during the corresponding period of last year.

(c) and (d) Further, coal stock at power plants had also increased from 26.10 MT as on 01.04.2015 to 38.87 MT as on 01.04.2016. The build-up in stock is mostly on account of regulated lifting by power utility sector which got impacted due to power demand dynamics arising out of merit order dispatch rules of discoms.

In 2016-17 coal stock of CIL has declined from 57.64 MT as on 01.04.2016 to 48.45 MT as on 01.02.2017 and the coal stock of TPPs has declined from 38.87 MT as on 01.04.2016 to 22.27 MT as on 01.02.2017. The less rate of reduction in stock of coal mines as against that of TPPs is on account of preference of some TPPs to consume coal from their own stocks by regulating coal lifting. Heavy rains in coal fields during Aug'16 and Sep'16 hampered coal transportation and wagon loading, thereby impacting stock liquidation.

#### **Impact on operation of ECL due to absence of CMD**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no regular CMD of ECL and if so, since when;

(b) whether it is also a fact that absence of regular CMD of ECL has made the company handicapped in dealing with issues of safety and other key areas for coalfield operations at the level of top management;

(c) whether the Ministry has made a determination of responsibility given the nature of the accident;

(d) what action has been taken against the delinquent officers of ECL; and

(e) what action has been taken against the outsourcing company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH