

Production and consumption of coal

2139. SHRI C.P.NARAYANAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the present quantum of coal production in the country;
- (b) whether granting of new coal blocks has increased the production substantially;
- (c) if so, by how much;
- (d) the annual consumption now;
- (e) whether the country is committed to reduce coal usage as part of Paris Agreement; and
- (f) if so, by how much?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) All India coal production during 2016-17 was 659.27 MT.

(b) and (c) Year-wise coal production from the operational coal mines allocated under Coal Mines (Special Provision) Act, 2015 is as under:

Year	Production (MT)
2015-16	11.80
2016-17	15.32
2017-18 till October, 2017	9.14

(d) Annual coal consumption during 2016-17 was 838.32 MT which includes 647.37 MT of domestic supply and 190.95 MT of import.

(e) and (f) India submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions under Paris Agreement on 2nd October, 2015. These are economy wide goals and no specific commitment relating to coal usage has been made under Paris Agreement.

Dousing fires in Jharia Coalfields

2140. SHRI MANISH GUPTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that coal fires in and around Jharia Coalfields have been raging for over a hundred years;

(b) whether Government has conducted a study on the effects of these coal fires on environment and health and if so, the summary of the main findings;

(c) whether sand and other inflammable materials can be used to douse these fires; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The coal mining operations in the Jharia Coalfields by the erstwhile Private Owners dates back to early 19th Century. Due to unscientific mining methods adopted by them, the coal mines were subjected to mine fires and subsidence.

(b) As informed by Coal India Limited, it has not conducted any specific study on the effects of these coal fires on health. However, Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) is operating mines after conducting Environment Impact Assessment and as per approved Environment Management Plan, which is a mandatory requirement of Environmental Clearance granted by Ministry of Environment and Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

(c) and (d) As informed by Coal India Limited, sand and other non inflammable materials like liquid nitrogen etc. can be used for fire control but not for extinguishing/mitigation of fire. As per the Strategic plan in 2008, in BCCL, it was decided to liquidate the fires by digging out material (*i.e.* coal, carbonaceous shale etc.) containing fire through excavation. For dealing with fire, excavation methods have been resorted by deploying hired Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM) in various mines of BCCL. This Strategy of digging out incendiary coal has been implemented with substantial success.

Ramping up production of coal to meet demand

2141. SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has asked Coal India Limited to ramp up its coal production and dispatch 2 million tonnes per day against around 1.6 million tonnes at present, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that this has been decided in view of robust demand for coal from all segments, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Coal India Limited (CIL) has envisaged to enhance its coal production to the level of 1 Billion Tonne (BT)