

**New coal mines**

†2781. MS. SAROJ PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new coal mines in the public and private sectors which have been given sanction since 2014 till date; and

(b) the expected increase in the production of coal in the country after the commencement of mining in these mines and the revenue that is likely to be accrued to the Government from it?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The allocation of coal mines are made under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 [CM(SP) Act, 2015] and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 [MM(DR) Act, 1957]. Allocation is made through auction to public and private sector companies and through allotment to public sector companies.

Under the CM (SP) Act, 2015, out of the old 204 cancelled coal mines, 89 coal mines were originally allocated after 2014. Coal Mine Development and Production Agreements have been terminated in respect of 6 auctioned coal mines. Thus, 83 old coal mines have been allocated so far after 2014.

Under the MM (DR) Act, 1957, 13 new regionally explored coal blocks, with estimated reserves of 7,242 Million Tonne have been allotted to Central/State Government Companies and no new coal block has been allocated through auction route to any private company since 2014 till date. Further, on the request of Coal India Limited (CIL) it has been decided to allot 06 new regionally explored coal blocks, with estimated reserves of 6163 Million Tonne, to CIL/its subsidiaries under the aforesaid Act during this period.

(b) The expected annual production and the revenue that is likely to accrue from these 19 new coal blocks allotted under the MM(DR) Act, 1957 is determined after completion of the detailed exploration in these regionally explored coal blocks.

**Supply of coal**

2782. SHRIMATI SHANTA CHHETRI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal-run power plants have complained about inadequate supply of coal from Mahanadi Coalfields Limited and several eastern coalfields;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of coal stocked at power plants; and

(c) the urgent steps Ministry is taking to meet the demand of coal supply?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) In 2018-19 (up to 05.08.2018), Coal India Limited (CIL) dispatched 167.86 MT (provisional) coal to Power Sector, thereby achieving a growth of 15% over the dispatch in the corresponding period of last year. The growth in dispatch of coal to Power Sector has helped coal based generation to achieve positive growth of 5.3% and 101.3% of the programme in the 1st Quarter of 2018-19. The coal stock at power plants depends on a number of factors like availability of suitable coal transport arrangement, payment of outstanding dues of the coal company, scheduling of power depending on merit order dispatch position of the plants etc. Moreover, in order to meet the power demand, many generating companies have opted to divert coal to v the more cost efficient power plants under the provisions of Flexible Utilization of Domestic Coal Policy (June, 2016).

In the first quarter of 2017-18, some power plants regulated coal intake due to low demand for power generation and preferred to consume coal from their stock. In the second quarter of 2017-18, there was a sudden spurt in demand for thermal power, arising out of drop in generation from other sources which gave, sudden rise in coal demand at1 the Power House end which were receiving coal from Coal Companies including M -di Coalfields Limited (MCL) and several Eastern Coalfields.

(c) The progress of production and off-take of CIL is monitored and reviewed on a regular basis. New rail lines are being laid for smooth evacuation of increased coal production from the mines of growing coalfields of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL), MCL and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL). Further, coal supplies to Power sector is monitored regularly by an Inter-Ministerial Sub Group comprising representatives of Ministries of Power, Coal, Railways, Shipping, CEA, NITI Aayog, CIL etc. A committee of Secretary (Coal), Secretary (Power) and Member (Traffic), Railway Board has also been jointly reviewing the coal transportation and supply on a regular basis.

#### **Number of Coal Mines**

2783. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of coal mines in the country;

(b) whether there is coal mining in private sector; and