

In addition to above, under E-Catering project, IRCTC has tied up with 136 Active private vendors and 12 Aggregators for delivery of food on trains to the bonafide passengers. 08 more Indian brands viz., (i) Paradise Biryani (ii) Khan Chacha (iii) Karim's (iv) Nazeer Foods (v) Sarvana Bhawan (vi) Sagar Ratna (vii) Biknerwala and (viii) Amul are also in the process of being included in the E-catering project by IRCTC.

Shortfall in domestic supply of coal

*263. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the domestic supply of coal is suffering from a shortfall;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government intends to encourage imports to meet the shortfall;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government to increase the domestic supply of coal?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) In 2018-19 (up to 31.07.2018) the overall offtake/dispatch from Coal India Limited (CIL), Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and Captive mines sources was 240.9 Million Tonnes (MT) (provisional). This is a growth of 11.17% over the offtake/dispatch during the corresponding period of last year.

(c) and (d) For the Financial Year 2018-19, Ministry of Power has projected annual domestic coal requirement 615 MT (525 MT from Coal India Limited, 53 MT from Singareni Collieries Company Limited and 37 MT from Captive mines). This requirement is being met by supply of coal from domestic sources. The domestic coal supplied to power sector in 2018-19 (up to 31.07.2018) is 194.69 MT (provisional). Due to these efforts of enhanced domestic coal supply to power plants, the coal import by power plants has reduced from 80.58 MT in 2015-16 to 56.41 MT in 2017-18. In 2018-19 (up to 30.06.2018), the coal import by power sector is 14% less than the import in the corresponding period of last year.

Coal and coke, being under Open General License as per import policy of the Government, are imported by various traders and consuming industries as per their requirement. However, the gap between demand and domestic supply of coal cannot be bridged completely as there is insufficient availability of coking coal and the power

plant which are designed to consume imported coal will continue to import coal for their power generation.

(e) The progress of production and offtake of CIL is 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 SECL, MCL and 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, Central Electricity Authority, 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.

Tender for works under national internet backbone

*264. SHRI JAVED ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answers to Unstarred Question 2942, Starred Question 229 and Unstarred Question 4557 given in the Rajya Sabha on 11 August, 2017, 16 March, 2018 and 6 April, 2018 respectively and state:

(a) the details of companies which have been awarded contract by BSNL for expansion of National Internet Backbone and Annual Maintenance Contracts along with purchase of hardware wherein a scam of ₹300 crore has been reported;

(b) whether tenders for the said works were invited as per the guidelines of CVC;

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the dates thereof and the details of companies which participated in the tenders; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) Three companies were awarded contract for expansion of National Internet Backbone and Annual maintenance contract. Details are:

- M/s Huawei Telecommunications India Private Limited
- M/s CISCO through M/s Presto Infosolutions Private Limited
- M/s Juniper Networks International BV through M/s Inspira Enterprises India Private Limited.