Written Answers to Unstarred Questions

(c) whether it is also a fact that there would be a spurt in demand of coal transport through Railways only; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that coal supply through road is unlikely to increase significantly?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) For 2018-19, NITI Aayog has projected the annual demand as 991.35 MT, including imported coking and non-coking coal. Ministry of Power has informed that based on growth in electricity demand, the requirement of domestic coal during 2018-19 would be about 615 Million Tonnes (MT), out of which coal requirement from Coal India Limited (CIL) would be 513 MT, from e-auction would be 12 MT, from Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) would be 53 MT and from Captive Mines would be 37 MT. The demand of Power sector also projected requirement of an average of 288 rakes per day from CIL (including dispatch from Washeries and Goods shed sidings). In 2018-19 (up to 30.11.2018), CIL has supplied 315.94 MT, SCCL has supplied 35.02 MT and captive mines have supplied 29.91 MT to Power sector against the respective pro rata demands of 344.97 MT, 34.83 MT and 24.32 MT.

(b) In the month of October, 2018, average overall loading from CIL has been 268.8 rakes/day and that the loading for Power sector has been 257.5 rakes/day.

(c) In the year 2018-19 (up to 30.11.2018), there has been a growth of 8.7% in coal loading through Railways as the average daily loading has been 272.5 rakes in this year in comparison to the average daily loading of 250.7 rakes in the corresponding period of last year.

(d) In 2018-19 (up to 30.11.2018), total coal supply through road mode has been 126.87 MT in comparison to the supply of 108.59 MT in the corresponding period of last year, thereby achieving a significant growth of about 17%.

Effect of fertilizers on health of farmers

1281. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers the effect of fertilizers on health of the farmers and on the resultant crop before approving its manufacturing and usage;
(b) if so, the details of the criteria used to assess the effects of fertilizers; and

(c) whether Government has taken any steps to educate the farmers about the right type and right quantity of fertilizers to be used, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): (a) to (c) Fertiliser Control Order specifies the quality parameters of Chemical fertilisers. The quality of the fertilisers available in the market is monitored by states from time to time. Chemical fertiliser which are cost effective, not detrimental to soil, plant, human and animal health and ecologically safe are recommended for use by the farmers. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is recommending soil test based balanced and integrated nutrient management through conjunctive use of both inorganic and organic sources (manure, bio fertilizers etc.) of plant nutrients with 4Rs approach i.e. right quantity, right time, right mode and right type of fertilizer to ensure judicious use of chemical fertilizers.

Soil test based judicious use of fertilizer is also promoted through Soil Health Cards Scheme of Government of India. In cycle 1 (2015-16 to 2016-17), 10.7 crore farmers were given soil health cards. Similarly in the second cycle (2017-18 to 2018-19), so far around 7 crore farmers have been provided soil test based recommendations of fertilizers through Soil Health cards.

ICAR also imparts training, organizes front-line demonstrations etc. to educate farmers on all these aspects. Government has also been promoting soil test based balanced use of fertilisers under Soil health Cards scheme. Farmers Field schools, demonstrations, training to farmers have been conducted under various schemes such as Soil Health Management, National Food Security Mission, etc. to spread awareness about judicious use of fertilizers.

Declining milk production in the country

†1282. DR. ASHOK BAJPAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether concerns have been raised on declining milk production in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether price of milk has risen in the recent past in wake of possible shortage of milk in future; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.