

**Underground fires in coal fields**

†655. SHRI RAKESH SINHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new coal deposits discovered in the country from the year 2016 to 2018;

(b) the arrangements being made to rehabilitate the residents of those coalfields (for example, Jhariya) which are affected by underground fires; and

(c) the efforts being made to douse the fire?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The new coal deposits discovered through Promotional (Regional) Exploration and geological report prepared during 2016 to 2018 are as follows:—

(Figures in Million Tonnes)

Sl. No.	Block	Coalfield	State	Resource Indicated/Inferred
<b>2016-17</b>				
1.	Sindhrawal	Singraulli	Madhya Pradesh	497.33
2.	Gaurangpur Bankati	Raniganj	West Bengal	69.12
3.	Northern Khar	Gangi Desai	Nagaland	124.33
4.	Maika	Sohagpur	Madhya Pradesh	62.18
5.	Bihar	Sohagpur	Madhya Pradesh	110.66
6.	Harri	Sohagpur	Madhya Pradesh	77.02
7.	Androka	Bishrampur	Chhattisgarh	56.841
8.	Dharampur	Bishrampur	Chhattisgarh	44.96
9.	Marwas	Singraulli	Madhya Pradesh	No appreciable resources
<b>2017-18</b>				
1.	Bandhbahal	IB Valley	Odisha	808.63
2.	Kantikoliya	Talcher	Odisha	45.73
3.	Keli K	Godavari Valley	Telangana	39.4
TOTAL				1936.20

(b) In order to rehabilitate the residents of coalfields (Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields) which are affected by underground fire, a Master Plan was approved by

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government of India in August, 2009. As per Master Plan, Jharia Rehabilitation and Development Authority (JRDA) under Government of Jharkhand have been assigned the work of rehabilitation of persons in Jharia Coalfields. Similarly Asansol Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA) under Government of West Bengal is looking after the work of rehabilitation in Raniganj Coalfields. Construction of houses and shifting are done as per the provisions of Master Plan.

(c) As per the initial survey, while preparation of Master Plan, an area of 25.69 sq. km was estimated as fire affected area was estimated in Jharia Coalfield. BCCL adopted a Strategic Plan in which it was decided to liquidate the fires by digging out through excavation method. Accordingly, excavation methods were resorted to by deploying HEMM in various mines of BCCL. The fire area at present has reduced to 3.28 sq km (NRSC study of 2018). In Raniganj Coalfield, fire affected area was estimated to be 8.62 sq. km in approved Master Plan. All the identified fire sites were doused.

#### **Allocation of new coal mines**

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

(a) the number of new coal mines allocated to both public and private sectors since 2014 to till date; and

(b) the estimated increase in the coal production of the country due to functioning of these new mines?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The allocation of coal mines is 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].

From 2014 till date, 61 coal mines have been allocated to public sector companies under the provisions of CM (SP) Act, 2015 and the Rules made thereunder [out of the originally 62 allocated coal mines, Coal Mine Development and Production Agreements (CMDPA) have been terminated in respect of 1 coal mine allocated to Public Sector]. From 2014 till date, 24 coal mines stand allocated to Private Sector through transparent process of auction under the provisions of the CM (SP) Act, 2015 (out of the 30 coal mines which were originally allocated to Private Sector, CMDPA of 6 coal mines have been terminated).

Under the provisions of the MM (DR) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder,

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