

- Surface Miners have been introduced in opencast mines in a big way to improve operational efficiency 8b to cater environmental needs by CIL. During 18-19, in CIL, around 50% of the opencast coal production was through Surface miners and is likely to further increase in subsequent years.

Production of coal in NLC

1578. SHRI A. VIJAYAKUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- whether Government is aware that production of coal in Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) has decreased in recent years;
- if so, the coal production during last three years;
- whether Government has conducted any study to safeguard the coal miners after recent deaths in Tripura; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) and (b) Coal production has not commenced from the allotted coal blocks of NLC India Limited and its subsidiaries. However, the details of the lignite production from NLC India Limited during the last three years is given below:

Year	2018-19	2017-18	2016-17
Lignite Production (in lakh tonne)	242.49	251.53	276.17

(c) and (d) Ministry of Coal has not received any such report regarding recent deaths of coal miners in Tripura. Therefore, no study has been conducted by the Ministry.

Corruption cases in SECL

†1579. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- whether the serious cases of corruption and irregularity in various projects of South Eastern Coalfield Limited (SECL) have come to the notice of Government;
- if so, the details thereof;
- whether any investigation of these cases has been conducted by Government; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.