

- 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.

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of action taken against those found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) to (d) The details of number of vigilance cases investigated by vigilance of SECL, number of officials involved and outcome of the investigation during the last five years are as under:-

Year	Regular Departmental Action (RDA) initiated	No. of officials involved	Outcome of Investigation			
			Minor penalty imposed	Major penalty imposed	Recor- dable/ Non- recor- dable warning issued	Displea- sure issued
2014-15	26	107	33	58	12	04
2015-16	17	34	05	24	03	02
2016-17	09	30	04	11	04	00
2017-18	12	38	12	13	06	01
2018-19	10	34	09	03	03	00

Transportation of coal

1580. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any measures which are conducive to environment while transporting coal from the mining sites to Thermal Power Plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has studied/observed the best practices that are being followed internationally in transportation of coal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?