

Reduction of import of coal

†2377. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously contemplating on reducing the import of coking coal;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any effective steps in this regard so far; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) During FY 2018-19, import of coking coal was 51.84 MT (Prov.). The entire demand of coking coal is not met from domestic production as the supply of high quality coal/ coking coal (low-ash-coal) in the country is limited and thus no option is left but to resort to import of coking coal. As per the current import policy, coal is kept under Open General License (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal from the source of their choice as per their contractual prices on payment of applicable duty.

(b) and (c) Reduction in Import of coal in the country is always a priority area of the Government. In order to increasing the availability of coking coal, following steps are taken by the Government:

- Coal India Limited (CIL) has planned to increase coking coal production from 34.12 to 52.95 MT (2019-20) (growth: > 50%).
- Notification of additional 2 coking coal grades viz. W-V & W-VI.
- New 9 coking coal washeries being set up by CIL by 2020-21.
- Long term Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs) with Steel companies -10-15 years' linkage to Steel Sector.
- Supply of washed coking coal to Steel sector - will be enhanced to 15 MT in 3/4 years from now from the present level of 1.6 MT.

Safety audit of coal mines

2378. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted safety audit of all coal mines across the country including the mines of Neyveli Lignite Corporation in Tamil Nadu;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any deficiencies were identified and pointed out to the concerned authorities to rectify the same; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Safety Audit has been conducted in all producing mines of Coal India Limited (CIL), Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) and NLC India Ltd. (NLCIL) in Tamil Nadu by internal and external agencies. Brief details of safety audit are as under:

1. Safety Audit of mine in CIL are carried out through inter-area multi-disciplinary teams.
2. Audit methodology consists of inspection of mine, examination of all relevant documents pertaining to mine safety, scrutiny of Safety Management Plans (SMP) and details of previous safety audit conducted.
3. Major objective is to assess whether all mining operations are done as per provisions of safety Statutes and to suggest/recommend the areas of improvement in identified deficiencies if any.

(c) and (d) The deficiencies pointed out in Lignite Mine IA mine of NLCIL during inspection of Director of Mines Safety, Southern Central Zone and the action taken to rectify the same is given as below:

Contraventions observed	Action Taken
Fault annunciation system was not working.	Indication switches were provided and Fault annunciation system was made ready on 20.03.2019.
Indication of Equipment Main lubrication system was defunct.	Main Lubrication system indication lights were made ready on 20.03.2019.
Lock and Tag out systems as per DGMS Circular 2/2018 was not provided.	Lock and Tag out system is now provided and followed in the machine.
Stability of all by NDT methods was not carried out.	Tender issued and the evaluation work under progress.

Contraventions observed	Action Taken
SOPs in local language was not placed in operator cabin	SOPs in Local language (Tamil) is now displayed in SME machine operator cabin.
Dust Control System at cutting system and discharge end was not provided	In the first phase, in two machines, spraying jets at cutting and discharge end and also portable auto sprinkling water jets are now provided to suppress the dust during cutting, and water spraying is been done on conveyor to suppress the dust at discharge end.

Environment friendly procedure for coal mining

2379. DR. SASIKALA PUSHPA RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Green Tribunal (NGT) has passed many orders relating to coal mining in the country regarding unscientific/obsolete method of mining, with a view to protect environment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has adopted any environment friendly coal mining procedure across its mines spread over the country;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. National Green Tribunal (NGT) *vide* Order dated 17.4.2014 in OA No.73/2014 had banned rat hole coal mining in Meghalaya. The case in NGT was disposed of in the order dated 31.08.2018 with a direction that the orders of ban on rat hole mining will continue, subject to further orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Further, the ban on transportation of already mined such material will also continue.

The final order of NGT was challenged in the Hon'ble Supreme court by Govt. of Meghalaya. Supreme Court, *vide* its order dated 03.07.2019, disposed of the case with the direction that:

1. All extracted coal as assessed by State of Meghalaya lying in different districts of State of Meghalaya which as per order of NGT is in custody of