

Slow growth in coal sector

3180. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the coal sector saw growth slowing down to 1.8 per cent from 3.25 per cent in May, 2019 over the same period;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to prevent the growth slowing further?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI) : (a) and (b) As per the report on Index of Eight Core Industries, coal sector witnessed a growth of 1.8 per cent in May, 2019. The major reasons for slow growth during the month of May, 2019 are as follows:

- Cyclone Fani affected production at Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL), Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL), Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) & Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL) during 1st week of May' 19.
- Adverse Law & Order in BCCL, CCL & MCL.
- Problems faced in physical possession of land in ECL, CCL & MCL.
- Forestry Clearance & Environmental Clearance.

(c) The focus of the Government is on increasing the domestic production of coal which includes efforts to expedite Environment & Forest clearances expeditiously, pursuing with State Government for assistance in land acquisition and Law & Order problems and coordinated efforts with Railways for movement of coal.

In addition CIL has taken the following steps to increase domestic coal production:

- CIL and its subsidiaries are going for higher capacity mega mines (Capacities > 10 MTY) with high mechanization.
- CIL has already introduced state of the art technology to improve its work efficiency. High capacity Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMMs) like 42 cum Shovel with 240 T Rear Dumper have been introduced, for this purpose.
- Surface Miners have been introduced in opencast mines in a big way to improve operational efficiency and 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.

Shortage of coal

3181. SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that coal shortage in the country is likely to persist for next two to three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor; and
- (c) action proposed by Government to tide over the crisis of coal shortage and meet the growing needs of the power sector?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI) : (a) and (b) There is no shortage of coal in the Country. As on 01.04.2019 coal stock was 54.4 MT with Coal India Limited (CIL). The all India raw coal production has increased from 565.77 MT in 2013-14 to 730.35 MT (Prov.) in 2018-19. Absolute increase in all India coal production from 2013-14 to 2018-19 is 164.58 MT as compared to an increase of coal production of 73.01 MT between 2008-09 and 2013-14.

(c) A number of important steps have been taken by the Government to augment and monitor coal dispatches to the power houses. Some of the steps taken are as under:—

- (i) Priority is given to supply of coal to Power plants through rail mode.
- (ii) The power plants in close vicinity of coal fields have been advised to move coal through road mode.
- (iii) Coal supplies to Power sector are monitored regularly by an Inter-Ministerial Sub Group, comprising representatives from the Ministries of Power, Coal, Railways and Shipping, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Coal India Limited (CIL) etc.

As a result of these steps taken for augmentation of supplies, the coal stock at Power House end improved significantly. Presently, stock at Power House end stands at 25.60 MT as on 16.07.2019, equivalent to 15 days' consumption.