

(c) whether Government has considered to regularise casual workers working in the Ministry; and

(d) the number of employees regularised during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Ministry of Coal has no separate welfare scheme for SC/ST employees working under the Ministry. However, this Ministry follows the Government schemes as per guidelines of Nodal Ministries concerned.

(c) No.

(d) Nil in view of reply to part (c) above.

Fulfilling the demand of coal

†3184. SHRI P.L. PUNIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the domestic production of coal is not sufficient to fulfil the demand of fuel in India, if so, the details thereof ;

(b) action plan chalked out by Coal India Limited to fulfil the rising fuel demand in the country; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited is acquiring the coal mines in Australia, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI) : (a) The gap between demand and supply of coal cannot be bridged completely as there is insufficient domestic availability of coking coal and power plants designed on imported coal will continue to import coal in the country for their production. However, there has been a consistent effort to increase domestic coal production. The all India raw coal production has increased from 565.77 MT in 2013-14 to 730.35 MT (Provisional) 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.

Coal India Limited (CIL) has also increased its production from 462.41 MT in 2013-14 to 606.89 MT in 2018-19. Absolute increase of 144.48 MT as compared to increase of coal production of 58.68 MT between 2008-09 and 2013-14.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) In order to meet, the domestic demand, there is a plan to increase the total production of coal in the country to the level of 1 Billion Tonnes by the year 2022-23.

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 2018-19, in CIL, around 50% of the opencast coal production was through Surface miners and is likely to further increase in subsequent years.
- In underground mines, basic thrust is on mechanization of coal winning/loading system, coal drilling and supporting system, coal evacuation system etc. High capacity Load Haul dumps (LHDs), Side Discharge Loaders (SDLs) and Universal Drill Machines (UDMs) in conjunction with belt conveyors have been introduced wherever possible.

(c) Some coking coal assets in Australia, where sale of equity stakes along with life-of-mine offtake rights is available, has been identified by CIL for equity investment.

Pilferage of coal

3185. SHRI RAKESH SINHA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to slate:

- (a) whether Government is aware of illegal procurement of coal from coal mines;
- (b) the number of cases that have come to notice;
- (c) if so, action Government has taken against this; and
- (d) whether there is any estimate of amount of coal that is pilferaged from mines?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI) : (a) to (d) Theft/pilferage of coal are carried out stealthily and clandestinely. So, it is difficult to assess and specify the exact quantum of coal stolen on account of theft/pilferage. However during