

drilling with a fund provision of ₹ 90 Crore for Promotional (Regional) Exploration in Non-CIL coal blocks.

(f) In order to ensure the easy and adequate availability of coal to every coal dependent industries/ Power Sector the following steps have been taken:

- (i) The power houses in close vicinity of the coalfields were offered coal for enhanced lifting of coal through captive mode (like Belt Piped Conveyor (BPC), Merry-go round (MGR) etc.) and road modes.
- (ii) For augmentation of supplies, the power houses were advised to move coal through Goods Sheds by Road-cum-Rail (RCR) mode.
- (iii) Efforts were made to enhance supplies through captive modes of transport like MGR. Belts, Ropeways etc.
- (iv) Supplies of coal to power houses through all modes were prioritized.
- (v) Rationalization of Linkages to reduce transportation cost.

As a result of these steps, the coal stock at Power House end has improved significantly. Presently, stock at Power House end stands at 34.25 MT as on 26.01.2020, equivalent to 19 days' consumption, as against 19.36 MT, equivalent to 12 days' consumption same time last year.

Thrust has been also given to augment coal supplies to non-power sector by holding regular auction for coal linkages where the consumers have been given the flexibility to choose nearest mine, quality (grade, size) etc. To facilitate easy availability of coal to all the sectors. Coal Companies are also offering increased coal under spot and exclusive e-auction.

Various commercial dispensations have also been extended to facilitate coal supply to these segments by introducing mechanism of conversion from rail to road, payment through Irrevocable Revolving Letter of Credit (IRLC).

Implementation of elevated highway

*10. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) the timeline set by Ministry to implement the elevated highway proposed to be built between Maduravoyal and Chennai port; and
- (b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) and (b) Earlier, Chennai Port to Maduravoyal project was

awarded on dated 06.01.2009 on Build Operate and Transfer (BOT) Toll basis. Due to various issues including non-availability of encumbrance free land and withdrawal of NOC by Tamil Nadu Government for construction in Cooum River, the project was terminated on 08.04.2016.

Thereafter, for revival of the project several steps have been taken including re-alignment of section in Cooum River and resolving the matter of resettlement of the project affected families (PAF), CRZ Clearance, etc. amongst various stakeholders including Tamil Nadu Government. The detailed project report preparation has been completed for 20.5 km elevated highway. Recently, it was decided to implement the project on Engineering Procurement Construction (EPC) basis and accordingly process of invitation of bids on EPC mode has been initiated.

The projects are awarded after completion of pre-construction activities including encumbrance free land for the execution of civil construction work within scheduled completion period, which depends on the size of the project.

High domestic price of coal

*11. SHRI T.G. VENKATESH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether coal prices in the country which are very high compared with global prices, are due to inefficient mining technology or any other reason;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government is considering to provide any subsidies and sops to the domestic coal producers to compete with the international coal producers as regards the prices?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) and (b) The pricing of coal has been decontrolled *vide* Government Notification through New Colliery Control Order, 2000 dated 01.01.2000. Consequently, coal companies are empowered to take decisions regarding pricing of coal. The Government does not play any role in it.

Out of the total coal produced for sale of coal around 90% of coal is produced by Coal India Limited (CIL) during FY 2018-19 and hence information was collected from CIL. As per information received from CIL the price of non-coking coal, produced by CIL and its subsidiary coal companies are compared with global prices on the basis of Gross Calorific Value (GCV) parameter and are much cheaper as compared with global prices of coal. A comparative chart of domestic and international prices of coal is given below for reference.