

**Environmental policy of coal producing companies**

10. DR. SANTANU SEN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any instance of discharging untreated water into nearby water bodies by coal companies thereby contaminating ground water;

(b) if so, the company-wise and year-wise details thereof and action taken by Government against those responsible;

(c) whether it is a fact that some Coal India Ltd. (CIL) subsidiaries have not formulated environment policy as mandated by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken by Government against those companies?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) and (b) No Sir. There has been no instances of discharging untreated water to nearby water bodies from subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited. Mine effluent conforming to set statutory standards are discharged. The quality of surface/ground water is also periodically monitored and reports are shared with the concerned statutory authorities.

(c) and (d) Environmental Policy of Coal India Limited (CIL), 2018, prepared for implementation by Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries, has been approved by CIL Board as mandated by the Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change. Subsequently, all subsidiaries have adopted the policy.

**Illegal coal mines in India**

11. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of illegal coal mining operations identified and closed by Government since 2017 across each State of the country; and

(b) the number of owners operating illegal coal mines who have been prosecuted since 2017?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) and (b) Illegal mining of coal is reported to be carried out mainly from abandoned mines, shallow coal seams, situated at remote/isolated places from the mines and are scattered over a

large area. It is a Law & Order problem, which is a State subject, hence primarily; falls under the domain of the State/District administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb illegal mining of coal. Hence, no database is maintained by Government.

### **Production and supply of coal**

12. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has increased the coal stock and augmented the supply of coal to power plants to meet the country's energy demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated demand and supply of coal to each power plant in the country during the last three years and the current year so far, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken to improve the coal production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) and (b) As a result of the concerted efforts of all the stakeholders *viz.* Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Power, Railways, Coal Companies and Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the coal stock at power plants end has increased from 19.70 Million Tonne (MT) as on 28.01.2019 to 34.52 MT as on 28.01.2020 which is equivalent to 19 days consumption.

(c) CEA has informed that the power plants receive coal based on their requirement. The total coal receipt and consumption by coal based Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) in the country during the last three years and the current year (upto 31.12.2019) is given in Statement (*See below*).

(d) Steps taken up for growth in coal sector which are expected to result in enhanced coal production.

1. Methodology for allowing allocatees of coal mines for specified end use or own consumption to sell upto 25% of actual production in open market (RoM basis) with payment of additional premium on such sale has been approved by CCEA on 19.02.2019 and order has been issued on 07.03.2019. Under this methodology, 10 mines have been allocated in the year 2019.