

(CEA), etc. as the coal sector is being opened up for foreign investments and commercial mining; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the proposed establishment of coal regulator?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) and (b) The issue of Coal Regulatory Authority is being examined keeping in view the legislative developments that took place after the cancellation of the coal blocks, allocated through the Screening Committee route since 1993 by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in 2014. The Government is yet to take a view in this regard.

Annual production target of CIL

803. SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal mining had seen sharp decline over the last few months owing to several reasons;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Coal India Limited (CIL) has set for itself an annual production target of 1 billion tonnes till 2024; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that for the current year, the target is 660 million tonnes?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) and (b) During the current financial year 2019-20, while there was a positive growth in production in the first quarter of the current year (April-June 2019) when total coal production was 168.9 MT as against 165.2 MT produced in the same period of previous year. However, production slipped between July and October, 2019 and the total production was 180.1 MT as against 205.9 MT produced in the same period of previous year. This was largely due to heavy rainfall witnessed in the coal mining areas in the current year which was around 25% more than the previous year. However, production has started showing an upward trend since November, 2019 and the country produced 69.6 MT in December, 2019 and 74.8 MT in January, 2020 which is highest ever produced in the last five years.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.