

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Status of coal production

1. SHRI K.J. ALPHONS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the production of coal in the first quarter of 2020;
- (b) the production in the subsequent quarter;
- (c) the reasons for the decrease in production; and
- (d) the projection for the entire year?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) All India coal production in the first quarter (January-March 2020) was 249.01 MT.

(b) The production of coal in the subsequent quarter (April - June 2020) was 144.15 MT.

(c) The main reasons for decrease in coal production are summarized below:

- (i) Lower production of coal due to COVID 19 effect.
- (ii) Decrease in demand of coal due to reduction in demand of power by about 30%. Shut down of many industries in non-power sector due to lockdown further impacted the demand resulting in poor off take.
- (iii) Supply of explosives affected due to restriction in interstate movement.
- (iv) Excessive rainfall during the year in some of the coal mining areas;
- (v) Delay in land acquisition and R & R related issues;
- (vi) Dispatch by Rail/Road adversely affected due to lockdown.

(d) All India coal production is estimated at around 800 MT for the entire year subject to improved demand conditions.

Coal gasification and the auctioning of new coal blocks

2. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to promote coal gasification and also auctioning of new coal and mineral blocks in the country;