

Loss of coal in Jharia fires

1798. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the underground fires occur every year in the town of Jharia in the State of Jharkhand;

(b) if so, whether Government have chalked out any plan to prevent the underground fires; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the loss of coal due to underground fires is more than 37 million tons that costs the exchequer more than Rs. 7000 crore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In order to retard the progress of existing fire, BCCL has taken the following measures depending on the conditions—

- (i) Blanketing/surface sealing/sealing
- (ii) Sand flushing
- (iii) Inert gas injection
- (iv) Trench cutting
- (v) Water pooling etc.

(c) Central Mine Plan and Design Institute (CMPDI) has earlier estimated that about 37 million tonnes of coal was lost due to mine fires in Jharia coalfield. At current average price of coal of Rs. 783 per tonne, the estimated losses are to the extent of about Rs. 2900 crore.

Effects of Jharia fire on population

1799. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly four lakh inhabitants of Jharia in Jharkhand are facing eviction due to underground fire;

(b) whether Government have undertaken any action to rehabilitate them, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?