

WRITTEN ANSWERES TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Jobs to land givers in NLC

3301. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) is honouring its commitment of giving jobs to land givers; and

(b) if so, the number of employees appointed from this category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Total number of displaced persons (land givers) employed by Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited till date is 1711.

Pilferage of Coal in NLC

3302. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the increasing incidents of pilferage of coal in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC); and

(b) if so, what are the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Coal production for industrial use

3303. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coal produced for industrial use during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

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(b) whether it is a fact that the imported coal from other countries is comparatively cheaper and of high calorific value;

(c) if so, the difference between the price of the indigenous coal reaching Gujarat from Bihar and Orissa and that imported from other countries and used by Gujarat industrial units; and

(d) what steps the Government propose to take to compete with the imported coal so far as quantity and price are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI N. T. SHANMUGAM): (a) The details of overall production of coal in the country during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 are as under:

Year	Production (million tonnes)
1998-99	292.27
1999-2000	300.09 (Provisional)

(b) to (d) Coal is under Open General Licence (OGL) and coal imports are not monitored by Ministry of Coal. Consumers are importing coal, particularly coking coal and superior quality non-coking coal on account of inadequate availability of such coal from indigenous sources. Import of coal is also resorted to because the present level of customs duty and railway freight make such imports cost competitive per unit of calorific value on certain locations, particularly in the coastal areas.

Policy on coal exploration

3304. **SHRI B. J. PANDA:** Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government with regard to the mining and exploration of coal;