

State	Blocks identified to be retained by ' Coal India Limited			
A. CIL Blocks	No. of blocks	Estimated reserves (in Billion Tonnes)		
West Bengal	20	6.49		
Jharkhand	101	11.52		
Madhya Pradesh	32	2.62		
Chhattisgarh	43	6.51		
Maharashtra	58	3.32		
Orissa	21	7.86		
Total CIL	275	38.32		
B. SCCL Blocks				
Andhra Pradesh	147	7.94		
(ii) Captive blocks identified by CIL and SCCL & other non-CIL blocks				
State	Captive Blocks		Non-CIL blocks	
	No. of blocks/Sub- (in Billion Tonnes)	Esimated Reserve blocks	No. of blocks	Estimated reserve (in Billion Tonnes)
West Bengal	23	5.88		
Jharkhand	51	13.50	26	3.40
Madhya Pradesh	7	0.61	18	1.86
Chhattisgarh	20	4.17	10	1.86
Maharashtra	4	0.21	2	0.20
Orissa	16	3.25	12	6.99
Andhra Pradesh	7	0.27	—	—

Rehabilitation of ECL miners

2783. SHRI ABHAYKANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has decided to shed off 68,000 miners by shutting down operation in 64 mines;

(b) if so, the mines which are likely to be closed down and the reasons for taking such decision;

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RAJYA SABHA

(c) whether the ECL has chalked out any alternate plan/scheme for the welfare of the families out of those employees which are likely to be affected; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Closing mining activities in coal mines and opening of new coal mines is an ongoing process. Depending on parameters like exhaustion of coal reserves, economic viability of the coal mines, safety consideration, technical feasibility, ability of the coal company to redeploy the workers in a more viable mine etc., operational decisions are taken by the coal companies to close mining activities in some mines and also to open some new mines. 26 coal mines have been identified by ECL for suspension of operation in a phased manner. The location of these mines, State-wise, and reasons for suspension are as under:—

Company	West Bengal	Jharkhand	Reasons for the proposed suspension of operation
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	23	3	Economically unviable

However Government have stated on several occasions that workmen will not be retrenched on account of closure of mines or suspension of mining operations but will be suitably redeployed.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of the answer given to part (b) of the question.

Privatisation of coal mines

2784. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plans of privatisation or disinvestment of coal mines;

(b) if yes, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps the Government propose to take in case of loss-making mines;