

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2881
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12/12/2016

Impact of coal mining on environment

2881. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the production of coal by Coal India Limited and other entities in the country is at its highest level ever;
- (b) if so, what impact the increased mining of coal would have on the environment;
- (c) whether Government has taken any step to make coal mining more environment friendly;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and how Government plans to protect the environment?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR COAL, POWER, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): All India coal production has increased from 565.77 MT in 2013-14 to 639.23 MT in 2015-16. Coal India Limited (CIL) has produced 462.422 million tonne, 494.238 million tonne and 538.754 million tonne during 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 respectively which shows that CIL is continuously growing. A roadmap has also been prepared by Coal India Limited to substantially enhance production of coal to 1 Billion Tonnes by 2019-20.

(b): Before start of mining operation, environment impact assessment (EIA) is done and Environment Management Plan (EMP) is prepared for each mine to ensure that the impact to environment is brought to within permissible limit. EMP is examined by experts in Environment Appraisal Committee (EAC) meeting and is approved by Ministry of Environment and Forest & Climate Change while giving Environment Clearance (EC). As such the impact of mining of coal on environment is brought down to within permissible limit.

(c)&(d) : Yes Sir. Government while granting EC of a coal mine make it mandatory in the EMP to use modern eco-friendly technologies for production of coal in order to ensure minimum impact on environment and

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to adopt current and future pollution control measures. Some of the measures taken by coal companies are:

- a) Sprinklers have been installed at coal handling plants, near coal stockyards, weigh bridges, and haul roads to control dust.
- b) Use of water tankers to spray water in the mine roads in order to arrest dust and plantation in and around the mine reduces dispersion of dust.
- c) The major roads used for coal transport are either black topped or made of concrete.
- d) Covered conveyors are now being used to transport coal to minimize generation of dust during transporting besides taking railway line near to the mine.
- e) The drills are fitted with dust extractors.
- f) Controlled blasting techniques with delay detonators are used to minimize vibration and dust generation.
- g) Deployment of surface miners to eliminate drilling, blasting and crushing of coal for extraction of it.
- h) Use of state of the art mining equipment having higher capacity & productivity in its open cast operations to reduce sound and air pollution.

(e): Question does not arise in view of above.

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