

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2301
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16th MARCH, 2022

COAL SHORTAGE IN TEA GARDENS

2301. SHRI PRADYUT BORDOLOI:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- whether the Government has assessed the effects of the recent coal shortage on tea gardens in the North Eastern Region and if so, the details thereof;
- the State-wise data on the number of tea producing units in the North Eastern Region and the number of such units which primarily depend on coal;
- whether the Government has taken or intends to take any measures to reduce dependence on coal in tea producing units in the North East and shift to renewable forms of energy; and
- if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती अनुप्रिया पटेल)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SMT. ANUPRIYA PATEL)

- to (d): There is no shortage of supply of coal from sources of Coal India Limited (CIL). CIL is the single largest supplier of coal in India. CIL has provided coal supplies to the tune of 618.70 Million tonnes (MT) during the current fiscal (upto 9th March, 2022) in comparison to 531.4 MT supplied during the same period last year thereby achieving a growth of about 16.4%.

The State-wise number of tea factories in the North Eastern Region is as under:

| State | Total No. of Factories |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| Assam | 771 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 22 |
| Meghalaya | 6 |
| Nagaland | 3 |
| Sikkim | 1 |
| Tripura | 21 |
| Total | 824 |

Out of the above tea factories, 402 tea factories primarily depend on coal and other fuels. Natural gas is available to 422 tea factories that are located in Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Charideo, Sibsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat Districts of Assam. The tea industry is exploring option of using Methanol, a clean and green fuel apart from TD Oil and other sources. It is reported that a trial has already been conducted at Tea Research Association(TRA), Jorhat on use of Methanol for tea and TRA has certified its suitability for tea.
