

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2111
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.03.2016**

Deployment of Surface Miners by CIL

2111. SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA:

Will the **MINISTER OF COAL** be pleased to state :

- (a) Whether the surface miners are proposed to be deployed by Coal India Limited(CIL) for selective mining at some of the opencast mines;
- (b) If so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) Whether efforts are also being made to iron out the differences over third party sampling and if so, the details thereof and result yielded therefrom;
- (d) Whether any decision has been taken with regard to standard operating procedure for third party sampling of coal at the mine end; and
- (e) If so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF
COAL, POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH
GOYAL)**

(a)&(b): Surface Miners have been deployed for selective mining and for ensuring size & quality of coal. Use of surface miner also eliminate blasting of coal thus improving safety and environmental conditions.

Total raw coal production from Open Cast mines and percentage of Open Cast production by Surface Miners from the mines of Coal India Ltd (CIL) during last three years and the current year is given below:

Year	Total Open cast production (Million Tones)	Production by Surface Miners (Million Tones)	% of Open Cast Production from Surface Miner
2015-16(up to December (Provisional))	348.664	167.375	48.00
2014-15	459.196	197.909	43.09
2013-14	426.309	170.819	40.06
2012-13	414.435	155.801	37.59

(c)to(e): To address the issues of dispute between coal companies and Power Utilities/developers and to bring about improvement in the quality of coal supply, the system of Third Party Sampling has been further improved. As per revised instructions on Third Party Sampling issued by Ministry of Coal on 26.11.2015, Independent Third Party Agencies are to be empaneled by Central Institute for Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR) for taking samples at the loading end on behalf of both the power plant (consumers - including PSU power plants and private power plants) and the coal companies (supplier). Enlisting of third party agencies, for work of sampling and analysis of coal, is being done through a transparent process.

Under the procedure, the authorized representatives of power plant and coal company have to jointly witness the process of sample collection and preparation of the laboratory samples. The samples are to be collected and prepared by the third party agency/independent sampler as per Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) norms. The fee for independent sampling agency is borne by both the coal company (supplier) and the power utility (consumer) in equal measure. The Third Party Agency has to communicate the Analysis Results of the sample within 18 (eighteen) working days of the sample collection to the coal company and the power plant. The procedure also prescribes that coal company or the power plant may raise dispute, if any, within 07 (seven) days of the submission of the result by the Third Party. Analysis of referee samples has to be taken up in a government laboratory in case of disputes arising within the stipulated time period.
