

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding employment opportunities provided by Mahanadi Coal Limited, Talcher-laid.

SHRI MAHESH SAHOO (DHENKANAL): Talcher and its adjoining areas produce 30% of total coal output in the country. Having said that, one must also note that employment opportunity in Mahanadi Coal Limited is very low when compared to other coal producing locations.

Mahanadi Coal Limited in Talcher employs only twenty-one thousand people whereas, coal field in Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal employ much higher in number close to one lakh at each location. Employment in fewer number for performing similar amount of work means that the workers are either over loaded when output is more or the output has been compromised by employing fewer number of workers. Employing more workers by MCL will negate both the challenges.

There is opportunity for MCL to give employment to more than 5000 people from the locality. If employment is provided, production and performance of MCL will improve. Above all, the problem of unemployment in Talcher and adjoining areas will also be taken care of for a long period of time to come. Further, people will be benefited to a larger extent. Therefore, I urge upon the Minister of Coal to consider the matter with compassion at the earliest.