

(b) the percentage of gross revenue spent for community development alongwith the percentage fixed by the Government; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to provide more funds for the development of this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Different works relating to Community Development undertaken in the Giridih Coalfields of CCL during last three years within the 8 kms. periphery of coalfields are spread over education, health care, drinking water etc.

(b) The percentage of actual expenditure on Community Development works during last three years is 0.3% of the revenue earning by CCL during the said period i.e. 1993-94 to 1995-96. No percentages are fixed by the Government for such works.

(c) Since the actual expenditure has been less than the budgetary allocation the question of providing more funds does not arise at this stage.

Credit Cards

1916. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints that Foreign Banks are charging exorbitant rates of interest on the credit cards availed by the users;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the victims of their trap are mostly low paid Government employees and other needy workers of private organisations;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct any survey to ensure their fair functioning at the cost of poor people of this country; and

(d) whether the Government also propose to provide a better and cheaper alternative to these people?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) :

(a) to (c). Reserve Band of India (RBI) has reported that it has received a few complaints regarding high interest rate being charged by foreign banks in relation to credit card operations.

RBI has further intimated that interest is levied by banks when the card holder fails to make payment of his bills of the credit cards, by the due dates.

Further, since the customer is expected to be aware of the terms and conditions, before enrolling as a credit card holder, RBI does not intervene in such matters

(d) No Sir.

Sale of Coal

1917. SHRI CHUN CHUN PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have stopped the local sale of coal from Lalmatiya Coal Mines of Rajmahal Coal Project in the Godda district of Bihar; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b). No. Sir. According to the information received from Coal India Limited, coal from Lalmatia Coal mines of Rajmahal group of mines in Godda district of Bihar continue to be sold under Liberalised Sales Scheme (modified).

Prices of Coal

1918. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow public sector coal companies to set up their own price lists for different varieties of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). Pricing and distribution of coking coal and A,B & C grades of non-coking coal have been deregulated by the Central Govt. w.e.f. 22.3.1996. Following this, the Coal India Limited (CIL) have fixed the prices of coking coal and A,B & C grades of non-coking coal w.e.f. 31.3.1996. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) have fixed the prices of B & C grades of non-coking coal w.e.f. 19.4.1996. SCCL does not produce coking coal and A grade of non-coking coal.

Non-coking coal of D,E,F & G grades still continue to be regulated by the Government.

Theft of Coal

1919. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
SHRI RADHAMOHAN SINGH :
SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether theft of a large quantity of coal is continuing from different collieries of the country particularly from Bihar and Western Coalfields of Coal India Ltd., for a long time, consequently the Government is suffering annual loss of lakhs of rupees;

(b) if so, the number of cases of such theft came to notice during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to check the theft of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) :

(a) and (b). According to information furnished by Coal India Ltd., the reports of theft of coal as detected, from time to time, by security personnel deployed by the coal companies have come to notice of the management. The details of such cases during the last three years, State-wise are as follows:

State	Years		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Bihar	262	211	206
West Bengal	2412	1843	1371
Madhya Pradesh	17	28	15
Maharashtra	2	2	4
Orissa	20	10	12
Assam	-	2	-
Total	2713	2096	1608

(c) The steps taken to check the theft of coal are:

1. Construction/erection of fencing wall around the coal stocks;
2. Installation of check posts on the main roads leading to collieries;
3. Installation of watch towers and providing lighting arrangements around the coal stocking areas;
4. Collection of intelligence;
5. Surprise checks alongwith local police and colliery security personnell;
6. Round the clock patrolling by colliery security personnel;
7. Meeting with district authorities for drawing out plan to eliminate the menace; and
8. Lodging of FIRs with local police.

Supply of Coal

1920. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of coal required by the State Government of Rajasthan for its various industries;

(b) whether there is a gap between the demand and supply;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to supply sufficient quantity of coal to Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d). The requirement of coal are assessed Industry/sector-wise for the whole country. They are not assessed State-wise. Coal Companies are supplying coal based on the programmes submitted by the consumers in accordance with sponsorships issued by the respective sponsoring authorities. Coal supply to power and Cement industries are made based on short-term linkages established by the Standing Linkage Committee (SLC) to these sectors.

The overall despatches of coal to core and non-core sector consumers of Rajasthan during 1995-96 were 57.28 lakh tonnes (provisional) as against the despatch of 54.44 lakh tonnes during 1994-95, showing a growth of 5.2%.

Coal Companies are endeavouring to meet the requirements of coal of all consumers in the country including that of consumers in Rajasthan by increasing production of coal. In addition, coal from a number of collieries is being offered under the Liberalised Sales Scheme under which scheme coal is supplied without the requirements of linkages/sponsorships.

Dues of NTC Mill Workers

1921. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the employees of NTC mills particularly in Gujarat have yet to get their terminal benefits after their retirements;

(b) if so, the details of affected employees in this regard;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when these employees are likely to get their terminal dues?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c). On account of acute shortage of working capital requirements, NTC has been able to pay only net wages to the workers/employees of NTC mills in Gujarat. As a result, there has been some default in payment of post retirement dues to the superannuated employees of NTC towards PF & ESI. An amount of Rs.43.21 lakhs is outstanding to the superannuated employees of NTC (Gujarat) towards PS & ESI dues.

(d) On account of net worth erosion of 8 out of 9 subsidiaries of NTC, these 8 subsidiary corporations including NTC (Gujarat) Ltd. have been referred to and declared sick by the BIFR. Government have approved a revised Turn Around Plan for NTC mills in Gujarat involving modernisation of six out of eleven mills and restructuring of 5 unviable mills into 3 viable units by merger. This plan involves an outlay of Rs.158.25 crores. The funds will be generated out of sale of surplus lands and assets of NTC mills. Pending approval of the rehabilitation plan by BIFR and its implementation,