

during the above period and the details of achievements made; and

(c) the reasons for not utilising the allocated funds for the purpose during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) and (b) The budgetary provision and utilisation for R & D activities in coal and lignite sector during the last three years, year-wise are as under :

(Rs. in lakhs)

	B.E. Provision	R.E. Provision	Actual Release	Utilisation Actual
1995-96	2020	1000	270	232
1996-97	1460	600	600	1165
1997-98	987	938	850	456

The corresponding physical targets and achievement during the above period are as under:-

	No. of Projects	
	Target	Acheivement
1995-96	05	05
1996-97	15	08
1997-98	07	11

BE and RE is not directly related to the physical target of completion of projects for a particular year. This is because the cost of projects varies widely, ranging between below Rs. 5 lakhs to as much as Rs. 10 crores. For execution of sanctioned S & T projects, funds are paid in advance to the executing agencies against the work programme of the projects. The work programme of earlier year is executed in the following year, and, as such, actual utilisation of funds in the year 1996-97 was more than the fund released by Ministry of Coal.

(c) Main reasons for low utilisation of all allocated funds for the purpose are :-

(i) Submission of limited number of appropriate quality research projects which could be cleared.

(ii) Low progress of approved projects by various project proponents.

(iii) Delay due to multi-institution co-operation in certain projects.

(iv) Some of the R & D activities being taken up in operational units/mines had to wait due to production priorities and other operational reasons.

[Translation]

Amount Paid to Railway by CCL

956. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the amount paid by the Central Coalfields Limited to the railways on account of left behind and warpage demurrage in Dhori and B & K areas during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the loss suffered by each mines of CCL during the above period as a result of left behind and non-supply of coal due to substandard quality; and

(c) the action taken against the guilty management for this loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) Dhori and B & K Area of CCL have paid the following amount to the Railways on account of demurrage during the years 1996-97 and 1997-98.

	Amt. in Lakh of Rupees	
	1996-97	1997-98
Dhori	30.67	6.23
B & K	7.61	-

(b) The losses incurred by the company during 1996-97 and 1997-98 in respect of left behind/Demurrage/Quality deductions, are given below:

(i) Loss suffered by CCL as a result of left behind during 1996-97 and 1997-98.

Amt. in Lakh of Rupees	
1996-97	1997-98
251.25	369.14

(ii) Deductions accepted by CCL during 1996-97 and 1997-98 on account of quality slippage.

Amt. in Lakh of Rupees	
1996-97	1997-98
7386.51*	7769.46*

*Includes prior period adjustment of Rs. 1627.66 lakh made in 1996-97 and Rs. 2962.64 lakh in 1997-98.

(c) Concerted efforts are being made by the Coal Companies to minimise the incidence of demurrages and left behind of wagons. Cases of quality deductions are examined in depth and suitable remedial measures are taken to avoid/minimise losses on this account.

[English]

Hindustan Salts Ltd.

957. SHRIMATI BHAVNA KARDAM DAVE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state: