

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3435

ANSWERED ON:20.08.2004

WATER PROBLEM IN ADJOINING AREAS OF WESTERN COAL FIELDS LTD.

Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether water supply in the residential areas near the open cast mines of the Western Coalfields Limited is likely to be affected due to sharp decrease of water level caused by continuous mining activities in the said mines;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the action being taken by the Western Coalfields Limited with regard to the demand being raised for water supply in the said areas; and
- (d) the steps being taken/to be taken by the Western Coalfields Limited to raise the water level and remedy the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO)

- (a) No sir. As reported by Coal India Limited, the studies conducted indicate that there is only a temporary decrease in water level within an area up to 500 metres of open cast mines. Residential areas do not fall so close to mines.
- (b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.
- (c) Wherever required, as a goodwill gesture, Western Coalfields Limited supplies water to villages situated in the vicinity of its mines through pipes, water tanker, etc. under its community development programme.
- (d) The closed open cast mines are converted into water reservoirs by Western Coalfields Limited. It results in raising water table of the area.