

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3670
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2011
TRANSPORTATION OF COAL
Karunakaran Shri P.

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether huge quantity of coal is lying in the coal mine fields and are not being transported due to shortage of rail rakes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether 10% of India's coal production was lying idle due to shortage of evacuation facilities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL(SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir. The subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) were having pithead stocks of about 69.17 Million Tonnes, as on 1.4.2011. CIL has reported that the major reasons for the accumulation of pithead stocks were the frequent law and order problems in Jharkhand and Orissa, constraints in transportation of coal from the pitheads to railway sidings and the lesser availability of railway rakes during the 3rd and 4th quarter of 2010-11.

A Rail Coal Inter-face meeting was organized on 30.5.2011 between CIL/coal companies and Railways to plan for movement of coal during 2011-12 and the Railways have assured to provide more rakes to facilitate higher evacuation of coal.

The Hon'ble Minister of Coal vide his letter dated 1.6.2011 has written to Chairman, CIL as well as CMDs of CIL subsidiaries to liquidate the pithead stocks to the maximum extent and to personally monitor the situation. The concerned State Governments have been requested to improve the law and order situation to improve the evacuation of coal. The coal companies have been advised to improve their transportation facilities for evacuation of coal from the pit heads to the railway sidings.

(c) & (d): While the all India coal production during 2010-11 was 533.076 Million Tonnes, the total despatches and the closing stock were 523.247 Million Tonnes and 71.468 Million Tonnes respectively.

(e): Coal companies are required to maintain some stocks to ensure coal availability in force majeure situations. Improvement of evacuation facilities for transportation of coal from pithead to railway sidings is a continuous process and CIL organizes periodic Rail-Coal interface meetings between the coal companies and the Railways to plan smooth evacuation of coal. An inter-ministerial sub-group under the chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Coal also meets regularly to take stock of the coal stock position at power plants and inter-alia, suggests measures for liquidation of stocks. As a result, the subsidiary coal companies of CIL have been able to liquidate 17.74 Million Tonnes of their pithead stocks during 1.4.2011 to 15.8.2011.