

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3563
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013
COAL WORKERS STRIKE .
Venugopal Shri P.

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a strike was called by coal workers recently in all the coal bearing States;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) the total loss of coal production as a result thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to prevent such strikes in future?

Answer

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

(a) and (b) : Yes, Sir. The Central Trade Unions had called two days All India General Strike on 20th & 21st February, 2013 all over India including Coal India Limited (CIL) & its subsidiaries and Singareni Collieries Company Limited(SCCL) in protest against price rise and other national issues.

The issue was discussed with the representatives of Central Trade Unions operating in coal industries at Unit/Project level, Area level and Company level. In addition to that the authorities of Ministry of Labour & Employment also intervened and held conciliation with Central Trade Unions at different levels in all coal bearing states. In the said conciliation, both Management at different level and the Conciliation Authority had appealed to the unions to not to go for strike during the peak period in which the companies are striving to achieve targeted coal production required for the country. However, in spite of the appeals, conciliations, discussions, the Central Trade Unions resorted to two days' Strike on 20th & 21st February, 2013 in Coal India Limited & its subsidiaries and Singareni Collieries Company Limited(SCCL).

(c): In CIL and SCCL, 0.71 Million Tonne (approximately) and 0.10 Million Tonne (approximately) respectively was loss of production of coal due to the strike.

(d): Strike from workers in any sector including coal sector is inevitable in future as well, as it may not be possible to accede to all the demands of the workers, some of which may not be legitimate. However, as at present in future also, in the event of strike, all the precautionary measures i.e. close liaison with state authorities to maintain law and order situation in coal companies with essential service would be maintained. All sensitive vital installations would be guarded round the clock and police and District authorities would be requested for necessary police arrangements. The legitimate demands of the Unions would be considered as per the labour Laws. The concerned Unions would be persuaded not to resort to the strike in the overall interest of the country. Areas with potential for higher production have been identified and measures have been taken to ensure un-interrupted production. To ensure attendance of employees at the highest level for achieving targeted production, special incentive scheme has been introduced.