

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2821
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2015
Compensatory Afforestation by CIL
Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 50 per cent of the area of which the Coal India Limited (CIL) claimed to have planted trees is 'barren';
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Centre for Science and Environment in its Report in 2014 asserted that compensatory afforestation by CIL was poor in many States; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/being taken by the Government to correct the situation in each State in future?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b): Plantation is being done on technically reclaimed mined out areas and on the overburden (OB) dump areas, in and around mines, road sides, township / residential areas etc.,. In certain places, it is over the available vacant spaces through State Forests Department concerned. Also implementation of conservation plan for protection of flora & fauna is being done as per Environmental Clearance (EC) conditions. This is apart from the payment made for compensatory afforestation to Forest departments.

The reclamation / plantation monitoring of all the opencast coalmines is being done through Satellite surveillance. Monitoring of mines having production of more than 5 million m³ per annum (coal + OB taken together per annum) are done on annual basis; in case of others, once in 3 years (based on remote sensing satellite data, and uploaded on website of Coal India and concerned Subsidiary company).

As a result of this, till 30.03.2015, Coal India Limited (CIL) has planted more than 82 million trees over 34944 Ha. of land till 30.03.2015.

(c) & (d): As per the law, the compensatory afforestation is being done by the respective State Forest Department, for which the fund is provided by Coal India Limited (CIL). This is apart from Net Present Value (NPV) of forest land used and deposited with the forest department.

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