GOVERNMENT OF INDIA COAL LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1883 ANSWERED ON:04.12.2014 COAL RESERVES Innocent Shri

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the potential of coal reserves in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the production of coal during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (c) whether the production was not started in the coal mines as per the conditions laid down in the agreements; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): The coal reserves are being explored on regular basis in order to increase production of coal in the country. As a result of exploration carried out up to the maximum depth of 1200 m by the GSI, CMPDI, SCCL and MECL etc, a cumulative total of 301.56 Billion tonnes of Geological Resources of Coal have so far been estimated in the country as on 1.4.2014. The details of state-wise geological resources of coal are given as under:

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State Proved (Mt) Indicated (Mt) Inferred (Mt) Total (Mt)
Jharkhand 41377 32780 6559 80716
Orissa 27791 37873 9408 75073
Chhattisgarh 16052 33253 3228 52533
West Bengal 13403 13022 4893 31318
Madhya Pradesh 10411 12382 2879 25673
Andhra Pradesh 9729 9670 3068 22468
Maharashtra 5667 3186 2110 10964
Uttar Pradesh 884 178 0 1062
Meghalaya 89 17 471 576
Assam 465 47 3 515
Nagaland 9 0 307 315
Bihar 0 0 160 160
Sikkim 0 58 43 101
Arunachal Pradesh 31 40 19 90
Total 125909 142506 33149 301564
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(b): State-wise raw coal production during each of the last three years and the current year are given below:

Meghalaya 7.206 5.640 5.732 2.650

Madhya 71.123 75.948 75.590 42.669

Pradesh

Orissa 105.476 110.132 112.917 66.541

Uttar Pradesh 16.178 16.090 14.721 8.484

West Bengal 24.230 26.467 28.242 15.852

Total 539.950 556.402 565.766 315.687

Data of 2013-14 & 2014-15 are provisional

(c)& (d):A total of 218 coal blocks were allocated to eligible public and private sector companies in pursuance of Section 3 of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 during the period 1993 to 2011. Out of 218 blocks, 40 coal blocks have come under production as on date.

Development of coal blocks involves a gestation period of 3 to 7 years for reaching the production stage and another two to three years for reaching the optimal production capacity. As per the guidelines, coal production from a captive coal block should commence within 36 months (42 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of open cast mines and in 48 months (54 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of underground mine, from the date of allocation. If a coal block is not explored, additional two years are allowed for detailed exploration and three months for preparation of geological report.

Government has periodically monitored and reviewed the development of allocated blocks as well as end use plants by the allocattee companies by way of inter-ministerial committees. Based on the recommendations of the then Review Committee and the Inter-Ministerial Group now, the Government had de-allocated a total of 80 coal blocks due to unsatisfactory progress.

Allocation of coal blocks was challenged in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 25.08.2014 and order dated 24.09.2014 passed in W.P. (Criminal) No.120 of 2012 and other connected matters has declared all allocations of the coal blocks made through Screening Committee and through Government Dispensation route since 1993 as arbitrary & illegal and has cancelled the allocation of 204 coal blocks out of 218 coal blocks (i.e. except Tasra coal block allocated to Steel Authority of India Ltd. and PakriBarwadih coal block allocated to National Thermal Power Corporation and 12 coal blocks allocated for Ultra Mega Power Projects). In case of 42 coal blocks (37 producing and 05 likely to come under production), cancellation shall take effect from 31.03.2015.