

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4360  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2018**

**Deployment of Surface Miners**

4360. SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:  
SHRI SATAV RAJEEV:  
SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK:  
DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN:  
SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:  
SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:  
DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the surface miners are deployed by Coal India Limited (CIL) for selective mining at some of the open cast mines;
- (b) if so, the total raw coal production from open cast mines and percentage of open cast production by surface miners from the mines of CIL during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether efforts are also being made to iron out the differences over third party sampling and if so, the details thereof and result yielded therefrom;
- (d) whether any decision has been taken with regard to standard operating procedure for third party sampling of coal at the mine end; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

**(a)&(b):** At present, 19 departmental & 81 hired Surface miners are in operation in the mines of Coal India Ltd. (CIL). The year wise production during the last three years and the current year till Jan-18 is as under:

SL	YEAR	PRODUCTION FROM SMs (Mt.)	TOTAL OPEN CAST PRODUCTION FOR THE YEAR(Mt.)	% OF TOTAL OPEN CAST PRODUCTION
1	2014-15	197.91	459.20	43.10
2	2015-16	233.84	504.97	46.31
3	2016-17	255.87	522.66	48.96
4	2017-18 (Till JAN-18,Prov.)	212.33	415.91	51.05

Surface miners for selective mining of coal are being deployed in opencast coal mines of CIL based on their geo-mining and techno-economic viabilities.

(c): When there is difference between Third party sampling analysis result and the analysis result of Coal Companies part of the same sample analyzed in mine end lab, the Referee sample is referred for analysis in designated Government referee labs. As per provision of Fuel Supply Agreement, the result of referee analysis is binding on both seller and purchaser. During the period 2017-18, out of total referee analysis reports received till date there is variation in 63% of results from the results originally given by third party agency. Out of these variation in results, referee labs have reported higher Gross Calorific Value (GCV) than the GCV reported by the Third Party Agency in 87% cases.

**(d)&(e):** The following Standard Operating Procedure have been formulated for third Party Sampling at the Loading End -

- (i) An independent Third Party Agency to be appointed by Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR) by a transparent process for undertaking the work of sampling and analysis of coal at the loading end on behalf of both the power plant (consumer) and the coal companies (supplier).
- (ii) The CIMFR shall enlist third party agencies through a transparent process for the work of sampling and analysis of coal.
- (iii) The authorized representatives of power plant and coal company shall jointly witness the process of sample collection and preparation of the laboratory samples. The representatives shall put their signature on the sample tags in evidence of the process of sampling. All three - independent sampler, consumer and supplier - shall also sign on the samples register maintained by the coal company at the loading end.
- (iv) The samples shall be collected and prepared by the third party agency independent sampler as per BIS norms. Collection of samples to be ensured within free time for loading of rakes.
- (v) The fee for independent sampling agency shall be equally borne by both the coal company (supplier) and the power utility (consumer).
- (vi) The coal companies shall provide adequate enabling conditions for collection, preparation and storage of coal samples at the loading end.
- (vii) The final laboratory sample shall be divided into 4 (four) parts. Part-I of the sample is for analysis by the independent Third Party Agency at a government laboratory or NABL Accredited laboratory as appointed by CIMFR through a transparent process. Part-2 and Part-3 of the sample are to be handed over to the coal company and the power utility, respectively for their own analysis. Part-4 of the sample, called Referee sample, shall be sealed jointly by the third party agency, representatives of the coal company and the power plant and shall be kept with the Third Party Agency under proper lock and key arrangement. The Referee sample shall be preserved for a period of 30 days from the date of sample collection.
- (viii) Mere absence of or failure of participation by any representative of either party despite prior notice shall not be a ground to negate the sampling process undertaken.
- (ix) The Third Party Agency shall communicate the Analysis Results of the sample within 18 (eighteen) working days of the sample collection to the coal company and the power plant.
- (x) The coal company or the power plant may raise dispute, if any, within 07 (seven) days of the submission of the result by the Third Party.
- (xi) In case of dispute raised within the stipulated time period, the Referee sample shall be analyzed by a government laboratory.
- (xii) The persons engaged by third party agency should take proper training at Vocational Training Centre and obtain certificate for complying with the statutory provisions of Mines Act.

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