

and plans have been approved so that the requirement at the end of the Sixth Plan period, namely by 1984-85 would be of the order of 65 lakh tonnes and we will also have an established capacity of 65 lakh tonnes. Even then there will be shortfall because every plant is not expected to operate on 100 per cent capacity. So, some imports are likely to be there.

### Coal Production

\*438. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total coal production in the country (zone-wise), for the last two years; and

(b) details of anticipated loss including that ascribable to fire burns?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) Coal production in the country during 1979-80 and 1980-81 has been 103.95 million tonnes and 114.1 million tonnes respectively. State-wise and company-wise break up is given in statement laid on the Table of the House.

(b) It is not possible to estimate the anticipated loss of coal production in the future.

## Statement

(Figures in Million Tonnes)

Company	West Bengal		Bihar		Madhya Pradesh		Maharashtra		Orissa		U.P.		Assam		Andhra Pradesh		TOTAL	
	1979-80	80-81	79-80	80-81	79-80	80-81	79-80	80-81	79-80	80-81	79-80	80-81	79-80	80-81	79-80	80-81	79-80	80-81
ECL	17.78	19.35	2.74	3.35	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20.52	22.70
BEDL	0.49	0.49	19.59	20.94	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	20.08	21.43
CCL	..	..	17.45	19.53	4.00	4.14	..	..	1.50	2.05	1.20	1.75	..	..	..	..	24.15	27.47
WCL	..	..	..	..	20.30	21.79	4.76	5.77	1.07	1.19	..	..	..	..	..	..	26.13	28.75
NEC	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.56	0.61	..	..	0.56	0.67
TOTAL CIL :	18.27	19.84	39.78	43.82	24.30	25.93	4.76	5.77	2.57	3.24	1.20	1.75	0.56	0.61	..	..	91.44	100.96
S.C.C.L.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.4	10.10	9.40	10.10
Others	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TISCO	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
TISCO & DVC	0.24	0.18	2.87	2.77	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3.11	2.5
TOTAL :	18.51	20.02	42.65	46.59	24.30	25.93	4.76	5.77	2.57	3.24	1.20	1.75	0.56	0.61	9.4	10.10	103.95	114.01

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** Sir, from the statement supplied by the hon. Minister it appears that there is increase in coal production in the country and this Government can definitely deserve the appreciation for that. But, Sir, I would like to know of what grade the coal production has increased. There are various grades of coal, namely, cooking coal, non-coking coal, slack coal, etc. In which variety of coal the production has increased because every now and then in spite of increase in coal production we find that there is acute shortage of coal in the country so that even our steel factories have to import coal.

**SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI:** So far as coking coal is concerned, there is a shortfall in the Country. Basically, the position is this. The requirement of coking coal during 1981-82 is estimated at 17 million tonnes. The availability will be approximately 6 million tonnes. Now, during the current year about 1 million tonnes of coking coal is being imported. Action is being taken for setting up of new washeries and for opening up of new mines for coking coal. Except for this kind of coking coal, there is no shortage of any other variety of coal, although there are complaints here and there, about the quality of coal and so on, and we are looking into these. But the shortage is mainly with regard to the coking coal.

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** I wanted to know in respect of what type of grade of coal the production has increased. That is what I wanted to know.

**SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI:** All types of coal.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Second supplementary.

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** What did he say?

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** All types of coal. Why should he be partial to any type of coal? He says, all types of coal.

**SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:** Sir, my second question is this: There is a huge quantity of coal which is being lost year after year. In the reply the hon. Minister has stated this. I asked him about details of anticipated loss including that ascribable to fire burns and in his reply he has stated that 'it is not possible to estimate the anticipated loss of coal production in the future.' But what about the past which is already over. For that period I think he can definitely give the figure of the loss. But even that he has not given. My second point is this. A huge quantity of coal is being engulfed by the underground fire. I want to know what is the area, and what is the quantity involved. I ask for this information because there is a rough estimation of coal availability in particular collieries. They already know what is the quantity of coal which will be available. That being so, I want to know what is the quantity which is lost in this way. What is the quantity of coal which is lost due to fire? What are the specific measures which he has taken to control such fire?

**SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI:** There are at present about 70 active fires in Jharia coalfields, some big, others small. These fires are the result of wasteful and unscientific mining practices prior to nationalisation. Projects involving large capital expense have been taken in hand to contain these fires. These fires have resulted in huge loss of valuable coking coal. Till date an estimated 30 million tonnes of coal have been engulfed in these fires in the Jharia area. However, I may point out that this phenomenon of fire in coalmines is not something which is peculiar to India alone. Other countries also face similar problems. Of course, foreign countries are better equipped

to deal with these fires. In our country also we have got the machinery to combat them. We are also trying to get foreign consultancy to tackle this problem. Various other basic methods have also been tried by Coal India to deal with fire like blanketing of the fires by sand and matti and compacting them by dozers. There are various measures. If you want, I will read out all these measures, but it will take more time.

SHRI R. P. DAS: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the fact that the efficiency of the power generating machines of power stations, steel plants and rail engines etc. have been seriously affected due to short supply or non-availability of superior grade coal and in view of the fact that there is a huge import of coal as also production of low grade quality coal, I would like to know what steps have so far been taken to ensure higher production of superior grade coal as required in the country.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I have said that we are quite self-sufficient in respect of coal except coking coal. This year we are importing about one million tonnes of coking coal. With regard to the power houses, there is no dearth of coal except that there are complaints about the quality of coal. This matter has been looked into between the Power Houses and Coal India Limited and accordingly we are taking steps to improve the quality of coal. Apart from that, there is a plan for the installation of coal handling plant, coal crushing plant, etc. With the installation of these plants and machinery, I have no doubt that these complaints will go. With regard to the Railways, there is no dearth of coal. It is the transportation bottleneck which is creating scarcity of coal.

श्री विलीय सिंह भूरिया : कुछ दिन पहले इसी सदन में रेल मंत्री जी ने उत्तर

दिया था कि रेलों में जलने वाले कोयले की भारी कमी है और इस कारण से हमने कई रेलें स्थगित कर दी हैं। आप सभी प्रकार के कोयले की भारी वृद्धि की बात करते हैं। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि स्टीम में जलने वाला जो कोयला है उसकी क्या पॉजिशन है। और क्या कारण है कि रेल मंत्रालय ने कुछ रेलें बन्द कर दी हैं जब कि आप कहते हैं कि कोयले के उत्पादन में भारी वृद्धि हुई है ?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: There is co-ordination and in reality the Railways have improved the position regarding the transportation of coal to a great extent. But the railways have not been able to give us the required number of wagons. At the moment, they are giving about 9,000 wagons. But we require more than 10,000 wagons daily and if we totally eliminate the road transportation of coal, in that event we would require 12,000 wagons daily.

SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the investment on new mines are being held up due to want of clearances and whether it is a fact that due to lack of investment on new mines, coal production has been seriously affected? What steps the Government of India proposes to take in order to encourage investment on new mines?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: So far as the sanctioning of the new mines are concerned, the resources are allocated by the Planning Commission. And as per the direction of the Planning Commission and coal organization, we are going ahead with the expansion of new mines. The bottleneck is the acquisition of land. Land acquisition has been a problem to some of the States like West Bengal and Bihar. There is no problem as far as Madhya Pradesh, U.P. and all other States are concerned.