

**Shortage of coal**

519. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of coal across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken / being taken by the Government to improve the production of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The total consumption of coal during 2013-14 was 739.42 Mte. against the supply of domestic coal of 571 Mte. The gap between total consumption & domestic supply has been met through import of coal to the extent of 168.44 Mte.

The production of coal had been constrained due to difficulties in acquisition of land, slow pace of Environment & Forest clearance and constraints in evacuation of coal through the rail network.

(c) The Government had taken steps to improve Coal production which include efforts to expedite Environment & Forest clearances, pursuing with State Government for help in expediting land acquisition and coordinated effort with Railways for movement of coal. Steps have been taken by Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries to augment coal production which includes capacity addition from new projects and use of mass production technologies.

**De-nationalisation of coal mining**

520. SHRI HUSAIN DALWAI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government intends to introduce reforms in the coal sector so as to attract private investment in a transparent manner;
- (b) if so, the details of these reform measures;
- (c) how Government intends to introduce transparency for attracting private investment;
- (d) whether there is a proposal for de-nationalization of coal mining; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (e) Under the amended provisions of Section 11-A of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and rules thereunder, the