

Year	Coking Coal imported (million tonnes)
1988-89	4.49
1989-90	4.66
1990-91	5.72

(c) Steps have been taken to augment indigenous availability of coking coal. As a result, the import of coking coal by the steel plants is likely to come down progressively.

(d) The Geological Survey of India has estimated (as on 1.1.92) the reserves of coal in the country as 196 billion tonnes.

Clearance of Projects of E. C. L.

5561. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited and the Administrative Ministry gives clearance to Eastern Coalfields Limited for further projects after it is ensured the extent to which the earlier projects have been implemented by the undertaking;

(b) if so, the names of the projects reviewed; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). Clearance of coal Projects for investment approval is given after considering various factors like demand of coal, infrastructural facilities available, techno-economic viability of the project, environmental and forestry clearances and availability of resources etc. Monitoring of

progress of implementation of sanctioned and on-going projects is an independent activity undertaken by the subsidiary company, Coal India Ltd., and Ministry of Coal. Presently there are 6 major projects each costing over Rs. 100.0 cores under implementation in Eastern Coalfields Ltd. These projects are being closely monitored every month at various levels.

Entry of Multinational Companies

5562. SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Multinational Companies invest in developing countries for cheap labour, make export to their country of origin and also have repatriation of profit;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to prevent our labourers from being fleeced by Multinational Companies; and

(c) the steps being taken to prevent our country being fleeced by Multinational Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) to (c). The Government's policy is to welcome foreign investment which would bring the much needed foreign exchange, additional resources for investment and generated employment, foreign investment would also bring in technology transfer, market expertise and modern managerial practices which, in turn, enhance the possibility for exports. Availability of manpower at competitive wage levels would remain an important factor for attracting foreign investment in India. However, the foreign investor would also be governed by the labour laws of the country and repatriation of