

(b) if so, the main features of the policy;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision to open coal mining and exploration to the private sector; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) The Government have decided to move a Bill in the Parliament to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to allow any Indian Company to mine coal and lignite not only for captive consumption but also for sale. The Government have also decided to amend the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and to frame Rules for setting up of an independent body to step up exploration of coal and lignite resources and to allocate blocks on the basis of a competitive bidding process.

The basic objectives of the above mentioned decision of the Government are to augment investment in coal mining, increase availability of coal and to improve its efficiency. Thereby greater consumer satisfaction will ensue.

Diversion of supply of coal to black market

892. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal meant for tobacco farmers in Andhra Pradesh is being diverted to black market as reported in News Time dated 16th January, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed against the middlemen responsible for diversion?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) The Tobacco Board and the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. have reported that no complaint about diversion of coal has been received. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has also not reported detection of any case of diversion.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of answer to part (a).

बिहार में खनन/कोयला क्षेत्र में ठेके प्राप्त किया जाना

893. श्री नरेन्द्र मोहन : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को बिहार में खनन/कोयला क्षेत्र में ठेके प्राप्त करने के लिए माफिया वर्ग के सक्रिय होने की जानकारी है;

(ख) यदि माफिया वर्ग सक्रिय है तो उसे नियंत्रित करने के लिए कौन-कौन से कदम उठाए गए हैं;

(ग) क्या कोयला क्षेत्र में विभिन्न प्रकार के ठेके देने संबंधी नियमों को सार्वजनिक रूप से घोषित किया गया है;

(घ) क्या यह सच है कि को इंडिया लिमिटेड तथा सरकारी क्षेत्र की अन्य कोयला कंपनियों द्वारा ठेके प्रदान किए जाते हैं; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो प्रमुख ठेकेदारों के नाम क्या है और क्या इन ठेकेदारों के आपस में कोई व्यापारिक या पारिवारिक संबंध हैं?

कोयला मंत्रालय की राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती क्रांति सिंह) : (क) और (ख) इस संबंध में विशिष्ट सूचना प्राप्त होने पर इस संकट (क्रियाकलापों) से निपटने हेतु कार्रवाई की जाती है।

(ग) विभिन्न प्रकार के ठेकों को दिए जाने के बारे में अखबारों के माध्यम से निविदाओं को आमंत्रित किए जाने संबंधी नोटिस में ठेके दिए जाने के बारे में शर्तों के संबंध में ब्यौरे समाहित किए जाते हैं।

(घ) जी, हां।

(ङ) मुख्य ठेकेदारों के संबंध में ब्यौरा संलग्न विवरण में दिया गया है। (नीचे देखिए) कोयला कंपनियां ठेकेदारों के साथ व्यापारिक अथवा पारिवारिक पार्श्विका का संबंध नहीं रखती है।

विवरण

बिहार में कार्यरत मुख्य ठेकेदारों के नाम

(किसी एकल ठेके में 50 लाख रु. तथा इससे अधिक की लागत के ठेके)

1. सीमा सड़क संगठन (भारत सरकार का उपक्रम), महा प्रबंधक का कार्यालय, नई दिल्ली तथा धनबाद स्थित मुख्य अभियंता का कार्यालय।

1. कलकत्ता इंडस्ट्रियल सप्लाइ कारपोरेशन, कलकत्ता।
2. बनवारी लाल अग्रवाला, कलकत्ता।
3. मेसर्स बी.डी सिंह, रुपनारायणपुर, जिला-बर्द्धवान।
4. मेसर्स एस.पी.शर्मा, चित्र, आसनसोल।
5. मेसर्स कौशिक मुखर्जी, आसनसोल।
6. आर.एल.देवघरिया, सालनपुर, बर्द्धवान।
7. मेसर्स रेयतानी कंस्ट्रक्शन कंपनी, जोरापाठ रोड दोआ, धनसार जिला धनबाद(बिहार)
8. मेसर्स के इंजीनियरिंग कारपोरेशन लि. रांची।
9. मेसर्स सी.एन.सी. लिमिटेड कलकत्ता।
10. मेसर्स हमबोल्ड वेदाग इंडिया लि., कलकत्ता।
11. मेसर्स त्रिवेणी इंजीनियरी एंड इंडस्ट्री लि., नई दिल्ली।
12. मेसर्स इंडो इंजीनियरिंग वर्क्स, रांची।

Provident Fund and Pensions of coal mine workers

894. DR. RANBIR SINGH:
SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether several suggestions relating to provident fund and pensions of coal mine workers have been made to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action on such suggestions has since been taken; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Suggestions have been received from various persons/employee's association regarding monthly payment of interest on account of Coal Mines Provident Fund, doing away with the forfeiture clause under Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme and also the enhancement of quantum of benefits and reckoning of past services as envisaged under the proposed Coal Mines Pension Scheme.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As and when any suggestion is received, the same is examined depending upon its advantages/disadvantages and also its feasibility i.e. the viability of the fund and other statutory limitations. Recently the Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme has been amended to do away with the forfeiture clause and the waiting period. The Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act has also been amended to enable a pension scheme, in lieu of the existing Family Pension scheme, to be drawn up.

Certifying persons for coal mining plans

895. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGAKWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Bureau of Mines has been the authorised Body for certifying the persons for preparation of coal mining plans, for the purposes of MC Rules, 1960 and MMRD Act, 1957;

(b) if so, under what circumstance the Standing Committee in the Ministry of Coal has been authorised for the purpose of Rule 22 C of the MC Rules, 1960;

(c) whether it is also a fact that after such authority, the Standing Committee is being used as the sole authority for issue of certificates for the purpose of Rule 22 C of the MC Rules; and

(d) if so, under what provisions of law?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (d) In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 26 of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, the Government of India in the Ministry of Energy (Department of Coal) have issued a Gazette Notification on 20th June, 1988 that in respect of mining leases relating to coal, lignite and sand for stowing, the powers under clause (b) of sub-section (2) of section 5 of the said Act will be exercised by a Standing Committee of the Ministry headed by Secretary (Coal). In the same Gazette Notification the Standing Committee was appointed as the competent authority for purpose of Rule 22 C of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960.