

private sector to open captive coal mines for setting up power plants; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 has been amended with effect from 9-6-93 to allow private sector participation in coal mining for captive consumption of Power, Iron and Steel and other end use as the Central Government, may, by notification, specify, besides allowing private sector participation in washing of coal.

CIL's agreements with Russian firms for purchase of spares

3560. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA;
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL;
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: SHRI IQBAL SINGH: SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal India Limited has entered into an agreement with Russian firms for the purchase of spares worth over rupees 40 crores while a number of Committees set up by CIL to study the spares problems had recommended that with the collapse of the Soviet Union direct contact with the manufacturers should be established discontinuing the practice to obtain the supply through traditional houses; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for not adhering to the recommendations made by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) A delegation from Coal India Limited has recently signed nine contracts directly with five Russian Manufacturers of original equipment for purchase of spares required for the equipment, previously imported from former USSR, for a total value of US \$ 5866109.70 FOB, which is equivalent to Rs. 18.78 crores. No Committee has been set up by CIL as indicated. A delegation of officers from CIL had visited former USSR Republics earlier, to ascertain the situation.

(b) Does not arise.

Charging of premium on coal

3561. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some recommendations allotedments received from the sponsoring authorities/coordinating agencies like the Ministry of Industry, Central Electricity Authority etc, allotted coal to consumers from specified sources which included specified collieries carrying 10 per cent premium;

(b) if so, whether this was challenged in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) what was the need for charging a premium over and above the earlier fixed price;

(e) whether authority in this regard was given to CIL by his Ministry, if so, whether any amendment in the law was made so that Coal India could fix the price; and

(f) what is the basis and criteria on which the CIL fixes the price and whether there is any check on such price fixation by CIL because it is after