

Recently, the Liberalised Sale Scheme (LSS) has been further improved to extend the benefits to a larger cross section of buyers. Interested buyers under 'LSS' have been categorised as under;

1. Actual users.
2. Mini Traders.
3. Whole Sale Traders.
4. General.

First preference in order booking and despatches under Liberalised Sale Scheme would be given to actual users who can draw coal for their own use in addition to the normal supplies being received by them against sponsorships [linkages]. Second preference would be given to the Mini Traders registered with coal companies. CIL have given wide publicity inviting application for registration as Mini Traders. Mini Traders would be supplied coal upto 100 tonnes per month subject to availability after meeting the orders booked by actual users. Third preference would be given to the Whole Sale Traders appointed by the coal Companies subject to availability after meeting orders booked by first

two categories. If some quantity is still available, it would be allocated to other interested buyers.

As regards rates of customs duty, any changes are notified after a decision has been taken.

Production of coal in Bihar

3564. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of Coal has gone down considerably in the State of Bihar during the last five years;

(b) if so, what are the details of the coal production in Bihar during the last five years, year-wise; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to augment the production of coal in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The coal production in the State of Bihar from the mines under Coal India Limited during the last five years was as under;

	production			(in million tonnes)
1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
63.57	62.50	63.38	64.84	66.68

(c) Steps taken to further augment coal production includes opening of new mines, modernisation of existing mines, application of new technologies to achieve maximum results and ensuring timely availability of inputs and infrastructural facilities.

Deep reserves of Coal

3585. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that major part of the coal reserve exploded so