

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 produced 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

3565. 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 explored so

far to the tune of 1,92,912 million tonnes and proved reserve of 64,595 million tonnes have been found in our country upto a depth of 1200 metres;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the projects of coal mines which are being developed after nationalisation are shallow depth open cast mines, if so, what are the details of the planning of his Ministry to develop the reserves of coal which are below 100 metres upto a depth of 1200 metres; and

(c) whether CIL is opting for softer options by developing open cast mining only in a niche segment, a cultural task for the future generation to develop deep reserves of coal at a later date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) As on 1-1-1993, estimated reserves of coal in the country (down to a depth of 1200 metres) as per assessment done by Geological Survey of India are 193777.13 million tonnes (Gondwana Coalfields—192915.14 million tonnes; Tertiary coalfields—861.99 million tonnes). Out of these 64852.60 million tonnes (Gondwana Coalfields—64595.57 million tonnes; Tertiary coalfields—257.03 million tonnes) are in 'proved' category.

(b) and (c) The emphasis given to opencast mining for development of coal reserves lying under shallow depth was mainly on account of steep increase in the demand of coal particularly for the power sector in the post nationalisation period. In order to meet this demand, opencast projects were taken up given due consideration to factors like the location of power projects, availability of explored coal deposits and the infrastructure required to transport coal to the power houses. Some of the examples of rapid development of opencast coal mines linked to

various major thermal power plants are the mines located in Singrauli, Korba, Rajmahal, North Karanpura, Talcher and Wardha coalfields. Emphasis is also being given to the development of underground mines particularly for increasing production of coking coals in Jharia coalfield and superior grade non-coking coals in the Ranignj coalfield. For development of deeper reserves in future, emphasis is being given to detailed exploration in potential underground mine blocks.

कोयला कंपनियों की बकाया धनराशि

3566. श्री गोपाल सिंह जी सोलंकी: क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कोयला कंपनियों ने उपभोक्ताओं से अपनी बकाया धनराशि वसूल नहीं की है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ;

(ग) 30 जून 1993 की स्थिति के अनुसार कोयले के प्रमुख उपभोक्ताओं पर कुल कितनी धनराशि बकाया है और प्रत्येक उपभोक्ता के संबंध में इसका ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(घ) क्या बकाया धनराशि का भुगतान न होने के कारण ब्याज की राशि में वृद्धि हुई है और यदि हां, तो पिछले दो वर्षों के दौरान ब्याज के रूप में कतनी धनराशि का भुगतान किया गया है और :

(ङ) बकाया धनराशि को वसूल करने हेतु कौन-कौन से प्रयास किए गए हैं ?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजित कुमार पांजा) : (क) और (ख) जी, हां। यह देय बकाया राशि काफी अवधि से एकत्रित हो गई है। अतः