

(d) if not, the facts thereof;

(e) the total number of coal blocks allocated to Coal India Limited in 2008 and the quantum of coal reserves of these blocks; and

(f) whether Coal India Limited has decided to import coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) and (b) In 2004, no mine has been allocated to Coal India Limited. However, in 2004, Coal India Limited had 92.5 billion tonnes of coal resources in blocks and existing mines.

(c) and (d) Government has so far allocated 193 coal blocks with geological reserves of about 41.81 billion tonnes. Out of the total blocks allocated, mining lease in respect of one block has been declared void and three blocks have been deallocated.

(e) Coal India Limited has not been allocated any coal block during 2008. However, Coal India Limited had carved out new coal blocks from the balance regionally explored areas. Out of the newly carved blocks and earlier identified non-CIL blocks, Coal India Limited has sought to retain 138 coal blocks with geological reserves of about 57.57 billion tonnes for increasing coal production during the XII Plan and beyond to meet the rising demand for coal.

(f) Coal India Limited is entrusted with the responsibility of meeting the full requirement of coal by resorting to imports, if necessary.

Coal-to-Oil Projects

632. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether to meet the persistent energy crisis Government proposes to allot coal acreages to private players setting up Coal-to-Oil Projects;

(b) whether private players have evinced interest in setting up such Coal-to-Liquid projects with technical collaboration from Norwegian, German and South African companies; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): (a) The Government has invited applications from public and private sector companies for allocation of coal blocks for Coal to Liquid project.

(b) and (c) In response to the advertisement, 28 applications were received from 22 applicants. The technical collaborations proposed by the applicants is with foreign companies such as Rentech Inc., Syntroleum Corporation from the United States of America, Siemens, CHOREN Exports, Unde, Lurgi from Germany, and Sasol Syntroleum International Pvt. Ltd. from South Africa.

Open coal mines in Chhindwada district

633. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that consent has been given to start an open coal mine at Badkuhi village under Parashia Teshil of Chhindwada district;