

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) Dankuni Coal Complex (DCC) has submitted a proposal to South Eastern Coalfields Limited for increasing the gas production capacity at a proposed capital investment of Rs. 14.36 crores.

Penalties for using forest land in Chhattisgarh

1644. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a subsidiary of Coal India Limited has been asked by the Apex Court to pay penalties for continuing its operations in Chhattisgarh and using forest land there;

. (b) if so, the details of the penalties levied on the subsidiary company;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the total penalty has been paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The final judgement of the Hon'ble Court in the matter is yet to come.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

(d) A sum of Rs. 300 crores has been deposited by South Eastern Coalfields Limited to Central Empowered Committee, New Delhi as per directions of Supreme Court's order dated 8.9.2006 for continuing the mining operation. The final verdict of the Hon'ble Court is yet to come in the matter.

Policy on private sector ownership of coal mines

1645. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of Government on private sector ownership of coal mines; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to review the current policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Under the existing legal framework, Government companies alone can undertake coal mining for commercial purposes. By an amendment in 1976 to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, two exceptions to policy were introduced viz., (i) captive mining by private companies engaged in production of iron and steel and (ii) sublease for coal mining to private parties in isolated small pockets not amenable to economic development and not requiring rail transport. The Act was further amended in 1993 to allow coal mining for captive consumption for generation of power washing of coal obtained from a mine and other end uses to be notified by Government from time to time. By a Notification issued on 15.03.1996, captive mining of coal for production of cement was allowed. A Bill, namely, the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Amendment Bill, 2000 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in April 2000 seeking to allow coal mining by private sector companies without the existing restriction of captive mining.

MoU for setting up power project at Pipavav, Gujarat

1646. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat and NTPC have signed an MoU for setting up of 1000 MW Power Project at Pipavav in joint venture;

(b) if so, the present status of the project;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the project is held up due to non-allotment of Coal Mining Block to NTPC by the Ministry of Coal;

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay in allotment of the Coal Mining Block to NTPC; and

(e) by when the Coal Mining Block is likely to be allotted to NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An MoU has been signed by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) with Gujarat Power Corporation