

become a frequent story that a large consignment of spurious Chinese bulk drugs were being found at Chennai Port. Bulk drugs are active pharmaceutical ingredients used in the manufacturing and processing of medicines or formulations. Such drugs, when used in our country, can cause harm not just to patients in our country but can also pose a threat to the health of people in other countries as India is a major supplier of drugs to several countries across the globe. Currently, China is the largest supplier of raw material for bulk drugs to India and controls over 70 per cent of the Rs.15,000 crore annual market for imported bulk drugs. Amongst such huge amount of raw materials, sometimes, spurious drugs are also imported. Presently, there are no adequate officials in the office of Drug Controller General of India, especially in Southern Region, to check the quality of drugs being marketed in the country, and also, the quality of drugs being imported and exported from our country. Therefore, I urge the Government to place adequate officials in the office of Drug Controller of India and keep a stringent check on the quality and efficacy of medicines to prevent such huge inflow of spurious drugs.

Need to cancel allotment of coal blocks to companies which have failed to commence production

SHRI R. C. SINGH (West Bengal): Sir, coal is one of the primary sources of energy and is accounting for nearly 70% of our energy needs. We have world's 4th largest coal reserves and we are largely adopting open-cast mining for extraction of coal. Coal blocks are allotted to cater to the captive coal requirements of allottees. This objective has been negated by companies. This becomes clear if one looks at the performance of companies to which coal blocks are allotted. As of May, 2009, 201 coal blocks have been allotted with reserves of about 45 billion tonnes of coal. The intention behind allotting the coal blocks is to quicken the process of extraction of coal. But, till now, production has commenced only in 25 coal blocks and total amount of coal so far extracted is only 30.02 million tonnes. Every State and people's representatives are taking strong exception to the way in which production of coal is taking place from these mines and demanding cancellation of allotment to those companies which have failed to commence production of coal. Even the Standing Committee on Coal and Mines has recommended, when the issue of allotment of new coal blocks came up, to cancel allotment of coal blocks to companies which have failed to commence production and recommended auctioning of those coal blocks as per new guidelines.

In view of this, I request the Government to immediately cancel allotment to those companies which have failed to start production and auction afresh those blocks immediately which helps in meeting the energy requirements of the country.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House is adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11.00 a.m.

The House then adjourned at two minutes past seven of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 31st July, 2009.