

(v) Steel, Cement and sponge iron need higher grades of coal with some specific properties, whereas power sector can use any kind of coal. Use of higher grade coal for power sector through competitive bidding will lead to sub-optimal use of higher grade coal.

(vi) The techno economic feasibility and viability of those projects that were planned on the basis of existing procedure and have since progressed substantially will be adversely affected in case of change in the selection process midstream.

(vii) Competitive bidding should be based on technical and physical parameters and not on financial parameters.

These issues were considered and addressed by the Government. Recently similar observations have been received from the Federation of Indian Mineral Industries (FIMI).

(c) No, Sir. Impact on the cost of production of coal is estimated to be only marginal as the bidding would be driven by rational market behaviour.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of the reply given at (c) above.

Simultaneous elections for Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas

*333.SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering the concept of simultaneous elections to Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas, in order to save money and manpower;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would also consider to allow one person to contest for one Lok Sabha/Vidhan Sabha seat only; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (DR. M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under active consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) The Election Commission of India from time to time makes recommendation in respect of the changes in the election laws. On the last occasion, in July, 2004 the Election Commission of India has sent a set of 22 proposals which *inter-alia* includes the proposal relating to restriction on the number of seats from which one may contest.

While the matter was under consideration with the Government, the Chairman, Rajya Sabha has referred the entire matter of electoral reforms (consisting of 22 proposals) to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice for examination and report. Presently, the matter is under consideration with the said Committee.