

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of cases of irregularities in allocation being highlighted during the last year to till date; and

(f) the details of action taken against the officers of coal companies in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Coal blocks are not allocated by the companies of Coal India Limited.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply given at (a) above.

(c) and (d) With a view to bringing in more transparency, it is proposed to introduce auction through competitive bidding as a selection process for allocation of coal blocks for captive mining. Accordingly, the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2008 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha. Subsequently it was referred to the Standing Committee on Steel and Coal for detailed examination. Based on the inputs and Action Taken Note on the recommendations of the Standing Committee a Cabinet Note was placed before the Cabinet for passage of the Bill. The Cabinet approved the proposal on 28.01.2010. The Minister of Mines has moved a motion on 18.02.2010 for passage of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) (Amendment) Bill, 2008 in the Budget Session of Parliament, 2010.

(e) and (f) Do not arise in view of reply given at (a) above.

#### **Foreign tours of CIL officials**

4009. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officials foreign tours undertaken by the senior officials of the Coal India Ltd. during each of the last three years, company-wise;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on these foreign tours;

(c) the details of achievements made through these tours;

(d) whether absence of officials from work due to these tours affects the functioning of the organization; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, company-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The number of senior officers (officers of the rank of M-2 and above including Board level) of Coal

India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries who have visited foreign countries during each of the last three years are as under:

Year	ECL	BCCL	CCL	NCL	WCL	SECL	MCL	CMPDI	CIL	Total
2007-08	7	13	10	11	6	12	5	13	25	102
2008-09	6	7	7	7	10	14	5	23	32	111
2009-10	13	11	7	7	9	11	5	16	24	103

(b) Information regarding the amount spent on the above visits is being collected.

(c) Coal India Limited (CIL) is the single largest coal mining company in the world. In its endeavour to become a top Global Company and to take full advantage of big international equipment exhibitions abroad, delegations of senior officers are sent abroad from time to time to cover various facets of equipment and technology including safety devices having state-of-the-art technology, as well as to cope with disaster management. In order to match the future demand and after analyzing the performance of high capacity equipments under use in mining industry abroad, CIL has successfully introduced equipment like 42 Cum bucket capacity shovel and 240 T Dumpers at Gevra opencast projects in South Eastern Coalfields Limited. Similarly, in underground mines process of infusing Continuous Miner and Long Wall Mining Technologies on a risk gain sharing basis has been initiated in some of the mines in recent years. The exposure and experience gained by CIL officers during their foreign visits has helped CIL to move forward in the fields of clean coal solutions like Coal Bed Methane, Under Ground Coal Gasification, Surface Coal Gasification etc.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of the answer given to part (d) above.

#### Reserves of coal

4010. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) by when the country would have adequate reserves of coal; and

(b) the reasons why large scale imports of coal are taking place or are being contemplated by user industries?