

(d) whether Kanhan area management has received any complaint regarding less payment of wages to security guards in the months of January-February and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) As per the information received from Kanhan Area, Western Coalfields Limited (WCL), thirty-two private security personnel have been deployed in Mohan and Ambada Colliery for security purposes.

(b) The wages of the private security personnel are being paid as per the wage structure circulated by WCL based on the wage formula of the Director General, Resettlement, Ministry of Defence and the minimum wages for semi-skilled and unskilled workers in the States of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

(c) Apart from wages, EPF of the private security personnel is being deducted. They are covered under insurance. Single accommodation and uniform have also been provided to them.

(d) Kanhan Area Management has not received any complaint regarding under payment of wages to the private security of wages to the private security personnel.

Supply of Coal through E-Option

†3999. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the coal is also transported through e-option from those mines which supply the coal to Satpura Thermal Power Station;

(b) whether Government has received any complaint that good quality steam coal is picked and being provided on ORM permit and substandard left over coal is being supplied to the power station just for name's sake;

(c) whether it is also a fact that attention has also been drawn by the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh in this regard; and

(d) whether in the above context, Government would consider not to supply the coal through e-option from the mines whose coal is supplied to power stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Coal is also offered for sale under e-auction from mines of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) which supply coal to Satpura Thermal Power station.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has written to this Ministry that the coal being supplied to thermal power plants of Madhya Pradesh from Dumri Khurd siding of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) is of inferior quality. WCL has informed that during April, 2009 to February, 2010 only 20% of coal dispatched from Dumri Khurd siding was supplied to Satpura Thermal Power Station. During this period, WCL had also dispatched 21.13 Lakh Tonnes to Mahagenco from this siding as against 5.37 Lakh Tonnes supplied to Satpura station. Further, as against the boiler parameters of 3450 Useful heat Value (UHV) of coal for Satpura Thermal Power Station, the weighted average UHV of coal supplied from WCL sources was around 3809 UHV during April-December, 2009.

(d) At present, no such proposal is under consideration of the government not to supply coal through e-auction from the mines where coal is also supplied to various power stations in the country.

Bidding for coal block

4000, SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has now decided to allocate all coal blocks through the competitive bidding process;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the steel and power utilities would be affected by such a decision of Governments; and

(d) if so, to what extent and the steps taken to provide coal to Government owned steel and power companies without any competitive bidding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) With a view to bringing in more transparency, it is proposed to introduce auction through competitive bidding as a selection process in place of the captive dispensation through Screening Committee route for allocation of coal blocks for captive mining. For this purpose, the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2008 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha. It was referred to the Standing Committee on Steel and Coal for detailed examination. The Standing Committee submitted its report on 19.02.2009 to the Parliament and made certain recommendations and suggested having further consultations with the stakeholders and State Governments. Minister of