Mines *(http://mines.gov.in.)*. A Bill will be taken to Parliament after obtaining Cabinet approval. It is, therefore, not possible to indicate the precise nature of the provisions till the proposal is finalized with Cabinet approval. The National Mineral Policy, 2008, based on the Anwarul Hoda Committee Report inter-alia aims to make the regulatory environment conducive to private investment. It enunciates a first-in-time principle, and also a transparent selection criteria in case the State Government invites applications for grant of mineral concessions.

Allocation of Coal blocks

*532. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coal blocks have been allocated to companies which do not even have any power projects to execute;

(b) if so, the names of such companies which have been allocated coal blocks during the last five years;

(c) the basis on which allocation of coal blocks was made to such companies; and

(d) whether Government is in the process of cancelling the allocation of coal blocks to such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Coal blocks are allocated to eligible public and private sector companies registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1956 for approved end-uses for generation of power, production of iron & steel, production of cement and production of syn-gas through coal gasification (underground and surface) and coal liquefaction for captive mining under Section 3 of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973.

Coal blocks could be allocated for the power projects to be set up as well as for the existing power projects. The coal block so allocated is linked with the setting up of power project and the production from the coal block is synchronized with the commissioning of the power project. There is no such instance where coal blocks have been allocated to companies which do not even have any power projects to execute.

Development of tribal people in Maoist affected districts

†*533. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that, following a study by the Planning Commission in 2007, it had come to light that development of tribal people in Maoist-affected districts had declined.

(b) if so, whether any additional schemes for the development of tribal people had been initiated after this study report; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA) : (a) As per the information received from the Planning Commission no study regarding development of tribal people in Maoist-affected districts has been carried out by them in 2007.

(b) and (c) No additional scheme has been initiated. However, an allocation of Rs. 500.00 crore was made in 2009-10 as a one-time grant of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for Educational Development of tribal children in Schedule V areas and naxal-affected areas. The amount was released to the concerned states under the norms of the existing schemes of "Hostels for ST Boys and Girls" and Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan areas".

Criteria of Muslim concentration districts

*534. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is changing the criteria for recognizing Muslim concentration districts; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the rationale therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) (a) and (b) There is no proposal to change the criteria for identification of minority concentration districts (MCDs) at this stage. 90 districts have already been identified as MCDs in the country, on the basis of both concentration of the minority population and relative backwardness of the districts *vis-a-vis* the national average in respect of specific socio-economic and basic amenities parameters as per 2001 census. The minority population in MCDs that is taken into account includes all the five notified minority communities under section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act 1992 that is Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists and Zoroastrians (Parsis). The MCDs have been identified so that the specific development deficits of these districts are addressed and these are brought at par with the national average.