

coalfields of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) located in the State of Chhattisgarh and a small quantity is also supplied from the coalfields of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) located in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, the cost of transportation is likely to be relatively higher.

(c) and (d) Government of Rajasthan has written that their power stations are getting supply of coal from coalfields situated at a very long distance from these power stations. Sourcing of coal for power stations depends on a number of factors like long term availability of coal, available transport infrastructure, technical suitability of coal etc. Since there is no other coalfields in the vicinity of the power plants of Rajasthan, rationalization of source from nearby coalfields is not possible at this stage.

Funds to SCCL for captive mines for new power projects

1056. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state the reasons for not providing funds to the Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) for the development of captive mines for new power projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): Since 2001-02, SCCL has not been receiving any budgetary support either from Government of India or Government of Andhra Pradesh. SCCL has been taking up all development and capacity building/addition activities from internal resources or money lent by financial institutions on SCCL's own creditworthiness. Moreover, SCCL does not operate any captive mines for any specified end uses.

Areas for coal exploration

1057. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is classifying some areas as "Go" and "No Go" areas for coal exploration;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the views of the concerned States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) In a recent meeting held between MoS (Environment & Forests) and MoS (Coal) on 7 January, 2010, MoS (Environment & Forests) proposed that digitized maps superimposing coal bearing areas on forest areas should be prepared for identifying coal bearing localities where there is least possibility of damage to dense forest cover thereby approval from forestry angle can be faster.

(c) and (d) The above study is in a nascent stage and Ministry of Environment and Forests is the nodal Ministry for this purpose.