

The benefit of revision in royalty rates effected in 2007 was not extended to West Bengal in view of the high rate of cess being levied by them. The Government of West Bengal has been suggesting that the benefit of revision in the rates of royalty of coal should be extended to their State. They had also claimed compensation from the Central Govt. towards arrears of revenue from royalty foregone.

In this regard, consultation with the Ministry of Law has been held and it has been advised that the differential rates of royalty having regard to type, nature, quality, location etc. of coal may be specified by amending the IInd Schedule to the Act of 1957 as has been specified with regard to grades of coal.

Allocation of coal blocks to NALCO

2450. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state the number of coal blocks which have been allocated to NALCO, Orissa the total deposit of coal in these coal blocks and the daily requirement of NALCO captive power plant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : One coal block viz. Utkal-E located in the State of Orissa has been allocated to NALCO. The total geological reserve of Utkal-E coal block as per the approved mining plan is 113.393 Million tonnes to meet the demand for 2 units of 120 MW power project of NALCO and the requirement of coal for the said project is 2 million tonnes per annum (MTPA). Mine capacity of Utkal-E coal block would be 2 MTPA as per the approved mining plan.

Corruption in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited

2451. SHRI KISHORE KUMAR MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that there is a widespread corruption in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action Government proposes to curb the corruption there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) There is no such specific information regarding widespread corruption in Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. However, when any information/complaint is received, the vigilance Department