

1	2	3
Chhattisgarh	12441	110.00
Maharashtra	5360	41.01
Assam	348	1.11
Andhra Pradesh	9257	50.43

(c) Presently, 63 projects are at various stages of obtaining Environment Clearance.

(d) Getting Environmental Clearance is a continuous and ongoing process and issues related to delays are addressed by the coal companies with the concerned authorities and also by the Ministry of Coal with the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the State Governments whenever required.

**Inter Ministerial Group for timely clearance of coal blocks**

1491. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only one eighth of the 200 odd coal blocks allocated until March, 2009 could be made operational due to various obstacles including statutory environment and forest clearances from the concerned Ministries at the Center and State level;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government would propose to set up an Inter Ministerial Group to ensure timely clearance for coal blocks before auctioning takes place; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL):

(a) to (c) As on date out of 208 allocated coal blocks, 26 coal blocks have come into production which is around 12.5%. Development of coal blocks involves a gestation period of 3 to 7 years for reaching the production stage and another two to three years for reaching the optimal production capacity. As per the guidelines, coal production from a captive coal block should commence within

36 months (42 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of open cast mines and in 48 months (54 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of underground mine, from the date of allocation. If the coal block is not explored, additional two years are allowed for detailed exploration and three months for preparation of geological report. The allocatees of coal blocks which are yet to commence production are in various stages of obtaining statutory clearances and mining lease, preparing mining plan, acquisition of land, procuring machinery and equipment etc. for both mining as well as end-use project. Obtaining of statutory clearances like environment and forest clearances are mandatory for the coal block allocatees. The responsibility of obtaining statutory clearances and developing the coal block as per the prescribed guidelines and milestone chart attached with the allocation letter rests entirely with the allocatee company.

There is no proposal with the Government to set up an Inter Ministerial Group.

#### **Magnitude of illegal coal mining**

1492. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that a large number of mafia operators are indulging in illegal coal mining in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Orissa and other States;
- (b) the details of magnitude of illegal coal mining per annum; and
- (c) the details of measures worked out by the Ministry to stop these illegal mining altogether?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL):

(a) Illegal mining of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely. There is no reporting of such illegal mining activities from the mines located in the lease hold areas of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and its subsidiaries in Jharkhand, West Bengal, Orissa and other States.

(b) Due to reason stated above, it is not possible to specify the exact magnitude of illegal coal mining in these States. However, as per raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Government, the quantity of coal recovered, its approximate value during 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 (prov.) are as under:-