

Coal for Sattupalli Thermal Power Station

1494. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position with regard to the request of the Andhra Pradesh Power Generation for providing 3.25 mt pa coal for 600 MW Sattupalli Thermal Power Station, indicating the quantum of coal linkage provided, so far, against the recommended 3.25 mt coal by the Ministry of Power; and

(b) by when the demanded linkage is likely to be provided fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) :
(a) and (b) As per the provisions of the New Coal Distribution Policy (NCDP), the Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term) (SLC(LT)), an inter-Ministerial Committee, considers the applications for authorization of "Letter of Assurance" (LOA) for setting up power projects, based on, *inter-alia*, recommendations of the Ministry of Power and other relevant factors. Ministry of Power was requested to offer their comments/recommendations on the application received from Andhra Pradesh Power Generation Corporation (APGENCO) for setting up a 600 MW power project at Sattupalli. This case was not taken up by the SLC (LT) for power in its earlier meetings for considering 11th Plan Projects as this case was not recommended as a 11th Plan project by the Ministry of Power. On receipt of comments/recommendations of Ministry of Power and other relevant factors, the application will be placed before the SLC (LT) for its consideration.

Operationalisation of coal blocks

1495. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: 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 were made operational due to various obstacles like obtaining statutory environment and forest clearance from the concerned department of States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the coal blocks estimated to produce around 267 million tonnes of coal are in dense forest area and classified as A category or no-go zone;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to clear coal rich areas as the country is facing larger shortages of coal primarily due to the rising demand of power sector?

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

(a) 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.

(b) and (c) An exercise has been taken up jointly by Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Environment and Forests to superimpose maps of coal bearing areas on maps of forest cover in case of nine coalfields with a view to identify *prima-facie* 'Go' and 'No-Go' areas for coal mining. The exercise being carried out in consultation with the concerned Ministries like Ministry of Power and Ministry of Steel, is in advanced stage and estimation of impact on production is premature.

Resignation of officers and employees from WCL

†1496. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the officers and employees belonging to coal mines of the Pench and Kanhan areas of Ohhindwara district in western coal bearing area, who have resigned during the last three years and the reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.