

Task force on allocation of coal to Gujarat

638. SHRI PARSHOTTAM KHODABHAI RUPALA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what further action has been taken by the Ministry after constituting a task force on the issues of rationalization of sources of coal;

(b) what are the suggestion of this task force on allocating coal to Gujarat from near coal resources to avoid unnecessary transportation burden of power generating units of the State; and

(c) the implementation status thereof?

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

(a) to (c) The report of the Task Force is awaited. The tenure of the Task Force has been extended upto 25th December, 2010 for submission of its report.

Establishment of power plants by NLC

639. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector mining and power generation company Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) has proposed to set up coal fired power plants of 2000 MW capacity each in Orissa and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether NLC is also in the process of setting up a 50 MW wind power plant at Tirunelveli district at the cost of Rs. 325 crores; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of households and areas expected to be covered under this project?

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

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) proposes to set up coal fired power plants of 2000 MW capacity each in Orissa and Uttar Pradesh for which State Government approval is yet to be obtained and is also setting up a 50 MW wind power plant at Tirunelveli District at the cost of Rs. 313 crores.

(c) The land requirement for setting up a Coal based Thermal Power Plant of 2000 MW capacity is about 1000 acres. Details of land and households will be known only after State Government approvals have been obtained for setting up of the power plants. For the wind power project the areas required is 100 acres and land is provided by the supplier of the wind turbine generator.

Provision for central intervention in illegal mining

640. SHRI S. THANGAVELU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are not enough provision for central intervention in illegal mining in the States;

(b) whether it is also a fact that nearly 42,000 cases of violation in mining were detected in 11 mineral rich States last year;

(c) if so, whether Government would propose to make necessary amendments in the existing Mining Act and would constitute any body to check the increasing number of incidence of illegal mining;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) As per the current dispensation in the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) (MMDR) Act, 1957, the main powers for prevention and control of illegal mining are with the State Governments, which have full powers to frame their own rules for curbing illegal mining under Section 23 C of the said Act.

(b) As per available information, 16 State Governments reported that they have detected 41,578 cases of illegal mining in the year 2009.

(c) to (c) Yes, Sir. Draft Bill is presently under consideration of Group of Ministers (GOM). Till a final decision is taken, it is not possible to indicate salient features of Bill and provisions.

Allocations of coal blocks to PSUs

641. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Public Sector Undertakings were allocated coal blocks for their captive energy requirements;

(b) if so, the names of such PSUs indicating the number of coal blocks allotted to them and locations thereof;

(c) to what extent these coal blocks have been fully exploited; and

(d) the reasons for their not being completely developed?

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

(a) and (b) M/s National Aluminum Company Ltd. has been allocated Utkal E coal block for their captive energy requirement. However, 54 coal blocks have been allocated to 34 Central/ State Public Sector Undertakings for generation of power. The details of coal blocks allocated to Public Sector Undertakings for power generation are given in the Statement (*See below*).

(c) and (d) Out of total 55 coal blocks allocated for power generation, 10 have started production. The remaining blocks including Utkal-E are at various stages of development. Many of the coal blocks have been allocated after 2005. The allocattees of coal blocks, who have not started production so far, 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. 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 a coal block is not explored, additional two years are allowed for detailed exploration and three months for preparation of geological report.