

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Acquisition of Mines CIL

1241. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has acquired three mines abroad in Australia, Indonesia and US;

(b) if so, whether Company's board has approved the proposal and the funds were earmarked for this acquisition; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above. However, an outlay of Rs. 6000.00 crore has been earmarked in B.E. 2010-11 of Coal India Limited exclusively for acquisition of coal properties abroad.

Clearance to coal projects

1242. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether after PM's warning that environmental concerns should not lead to perpetuation of poverty, the Ministry has sought PM's intervention in asking the Ministry of Environment and Forests to expeditiously accord clearance to all coal projects, barring only 10 per cent of coal bearing areas;

(b) if so, whether total coal deposit basins approximately cover less than 0.54 per cent of land mass of India and forest cover on this coal bearing land comes to only about 0.16 per cent with respect to India's land mass; and

(c) if so, what is outcome of the decisions taken by Government in this regard and how many coal projects have been cleared?

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

(a) to (c) The Ministry of Coal has been pursuing with the Ministry of Environment and Forests to expedite environment and forestry clearances of all the coal projects. This is a continuous process as the coal companies expend their activities by formulating new projects to increase production. It is a fact that coal bearing areas cover less than 0.54 per cent of land mass of India and the forest cover on this land is only about 0.16 per cent of the country's land mass. Several meetings have been held in the Planning Commission and the Prime Minister Office with concerned Ministries to resolve this issue.