

**Coal linkage in Jharkhand**

†2227. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to grant 'coal linkage' to the industries going to be set up in Jharkhand;

(b) whether any talks have been held with the Industry Minister of Jharkhand; and

(c) if so, the policy of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) At present coal balance figures of coal companies negate the possibility of grant of linkage to new prospective consumers. But some prospective consumers have taken linkage in past but end use plant is not developing as proposed. The Government is, therefore, considering proposal to grant coal linkage to such units/ industries of various States including Jharkhand which are in the advanced stage of commissioning or the plant is already commissioned, by cancelling some of the non-operative linkages, which needs coal at a much later date. A meeting was held in this regard between CIL/Coal companies and Industry Minister of Jharkhand.

**Taking over of Coal Mines in Jharkhand by private companies**

†2228. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to hand over some Coal Mines to the private companies;

(b) if so, the number of such mines in Jharkhand;

(c) the names of such private companies; and

(d) the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO): (a) to (d) In order to augment the coal production in the country, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, was amended in 1993 to make eligible industries engaged in manufacturing of

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.