

- (iii) The area of lignite deposit occurs very near the Bay of Bengal and lignite seams extend below the sea bed.
- (iv) The lignite seams are associated with a number of ground water aquifers above and below. This will require depressurisation for safe mining and this may lead to salt water intrusion into the aquifer from the sea.
- (f) The block has not been allocated for exploitation so far.
- (g) to (j) Do not arise in view of answer given in part (f) of the question.

Import of coal by CIL

†1095. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the only public sector coal company, the Coal India Limited producing coal in the country, would import coal from foreign countries to meet the demands of coal;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the consumers of coal would have to pay high (extra) price for coal under this system; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for considering such proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (d) As per the import policy of the Government, coal is placed under Open General License (OGL) and can be imported by any entity in the country on payment of applicable import duties from the sources of their choice and there is no restriction for trading of imported coal in the country.

Phased extraction of coal from prohibited areas

1096. SHRIMATI GUNDU SUDHARANI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has turned down the Planning Commission's recommendation to allow phased extraction of coal from prohibited areas;
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendation and the reasons for such a decline; and
- (c) how the above refusal by the Ministry would impact the power generation in the country in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) and (c) Does not arise in view of answer given in part (a) of the question.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.