

Classification of 'go' and 'no go' areas *vis-à-vis* coal production

†1871. SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) to what extent the Ministry of Environment and Forest's classification of 'go' and 'no go' areas is affecting the coal production in the country;
- (b) whether the 'go' and 'no go' area classification is the primary cause for reduction in the production target of 680 million tonnes of coal by 2012; and
- (c) how the Ministry is planning to address this problem which otherwise hampers the other infrastructure sectors like power, steel, cement, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) As a result of the preliminary exercise, out of 602 coal blocks in nine potential coalfields, 203 coal blocks with a production potential of about 660 MT were found to be falling in category "A" or "No Go" areas where coal mining would not be permitted.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The issue of "Go" and "No-Go" areas for coal mining has been referred to a Group of Ministers (GoM) by the Government.

Supply of coal to thermal power plants under coal linkage scheme

1872. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Bihar/Jharkhand has submitted any proposal to the Central Government for supply of coal to thermal power plants under coal linkage scheme as per their requirements; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Central Government to ensure adequate supply of coal to thermal power plants in the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Seven applications have been submitted by Bihar State Electricity Board or its joint venture, seeking long term coal linkage/ Letter of Assurance for setting up of new power plants in Bihar, during the last 5 years. However, no such application from Government of Jharkhand has been received. For Bihar, Ministry of Coal has approved issuance of Letter of Assurance for setting up of 3 x 660 MW power plant at Nabinagar, a joint venture of NTPC and Bihar State Electricity Board, in March, 2010.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.