

Allocation of coal blocks

†1862. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state the number of coal blocks allocated to companies and individuals during the last five years and the number of blocks out of them where coal mining has been started and by when the mining is likely to be started in the remaining blocks?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): During the last five years 142 coal blocks have been allocated to various public and private sector companies. So far none of these allocated coal blocks has come into production. Commencement of production from these 142 coal blocks depends on achieving various milestones like forest and environment clearance from Ministry of Forest and Environment, obtaining mining lease and acquisition of required land in case of explored coal blocks and grant of prospecting licence and completion of detailed drilling in case of regionally explored coal blocks.

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 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 mines, from the date of allocation. If a coal block is not explored, an additional two years are allowed for detailed exploration and three months for preparation of geological report.

Coal linkage for thermal power plant in Bihar

†1863. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bihar Government has sent a proposal to the Central Government for providing coal linkage for setting up of thermal power station in the State, which is pending for years; and

(b) if so, by when the said pending proposal would be approved and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) During the past five years, a total number of seven applications submitted by Bihar State Electricity Board or its Joint Venture, seeking long term coal linkage/Letter of Assurance for setting up power projects in Bihar were received by the Ministry of Coal. Out of these applications, Ministry of Coal has approved issuance of Letter of Assurance, *inter-alia*, for setting up 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.

(b) The other applications received from Bihar State Electricity Board or its joint venture were forwarded to the Ministry of Power for their comments. Ministry of Power have sent their comments/recommendations in respect of four cases, which along with other relevant factors will be placed before the Inter-Ministerial Standing Linkage Committee (Long Term) for Power for consideration.

Illegal mining

†1864. SHRI KAPTAN SINGH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of cases regarding illegal mining that have come to the light during the last two years;
- (b) whether Government has taken any action in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has fixed any responsibility in this regard; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) The illegal mining of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely. The management of subsidiary coal companies lodges First Information Report (FIR) with local police station, whenever such incident/activities are noticed by them in their commend area. As per raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Governments, the number of FIRs lodged in connection with illegal mining of coal in different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) during 2008-09 and 2009-2010 are given below :

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	2008-2009	2009-2010
1.	Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	43	68
2.	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	05	03
3.	Central Coalfields Ltd.	02	02
4.	Northern Coalfields Ltd.	-	-
5.	Western Coalfields Ltd.	01	-
6.	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	-	-
7.	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	-	-
8.	North Eastern Coalfields	-	02
TOTAL		51	75

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