

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

E-auction by MCL

1889. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Mahanadi Coalfields Limited has launched e-auction of coal meant for non-core consumers, as against the open sale scheme;

(b) whether it has been resented by the Orissa Coal Consumers' Association, as majority of the coal users do not have access to computers and therefore they cannot bid on the internet;

(c) if so, whether their grievances have been redressed; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The concept of e-auction is a transparent and consumer-friendly system of sale of coal which is introduced on a trial basis keeping in view *improvement of technology*. Through this system, *accessibility of coal* from coal subsidiaries can be obtained through any number of multiple outlets across the country. The scheme is open to all consumers and they can obtain their requirement of coal of desired quantity and quality from preferred sources. Further Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata has concurrently been asked to evaluate the trial e-auction. Hence the concern raised by the Orissa Coal Consumers' Association is unfounded.

Further, three million tonnes of coal has been earmarked for State Government for distribution to small consumers through an agency to be notified by the State Governments. In addition, two million tonnes of coal has also been allocated to National Cooperative Consumers' Federation (NCCF) for distribution to the consumers who do not have linkage.