

(a) whether Government has decided to allow State Public Sector Undertakings to take up coal mining outside their State boundaries and sell it in the open market anywhere; and;

(b) if so, whether the States having no substantial coal reserves can actually set up their own coal producing entities and start operation in coal rich States such as Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) and (b) Coal blocks are allocated to the Central/State Public Undertakings under the Government dispensation route for commercial mining of coal within or outside the State boundaries. For allocation of coal blocks through the Government dispensation route, applications are invited from Central/State Public Undertakings and processed in the Ministry based on certain criteria. Allocations are determined on the basis of, inter-alia, preference to the States which have not been allocated any coal blocks earlier, priority to the host States in order to encourage value addition within the coal bearing State, past performance of applicants in developing coal blocks, recommendation/support of State Government concerned etc. On allocation of the coal block for commercial mining, the State Public Sector Undertakings may start operation of the Mine allotted to them after taking statutory clearances.

New coal company in Orissa

3418. SHRI KISHORE KUMAR MOHANTY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal pending in the Ministry to create new coal company in Orissa by dividing the Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL);

(b) the number of cases of land losers that are still pending in MCL; and

(c) whether Government has any time-frame to settle these cases?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b and c) As regards rehabilitation of the land losers, MCL is giving employment to eligible nominees of land oustees as per the Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R&R) policies of Government of Orissa. The employment claims are scrutinized at different levels i.e. Joint Screening with the district administration concerned, scrutiny at MCL Headquarters, obtaining approval of Collector and

subsequent approval by Functional Directors of MCL. At present, about 1152 such cases are under scrutiny in different areas of MCL. These cases are scheduled to be disposed of by the end of 2012-13.

Workers affected by dengue in MCL

†3419. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, as a result of death of one employee due to spread of dengue, many other employees are afraid of the same in Talcher Coalfields;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken or being taken so far by Coal India Limited or MCL for protecting employees and people of surrounding areas from this epidemic; and

(d) whether, keeping in view this epidemic, the work of setting up of proposed medical college would be put on a rapid pace?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL) : (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that there is an outbreak of Dengue in the Angul District including the Talcher subdivision affecting both the local villagers and MCL employees and their dependants. From the outbreak of dengue in the month of July, 2011, upto 18.08.2011, a total of 1405 patients were treated in Out Patient Department (OPD) of MCL hospital for fever. Out of this 1284 were tested by screening card test for dengue and 362 were found to be positive while 922 cases were negative. Out of this, 312 employees and their dependants were referred to higher medical centres for further evaluation and treatment.

(c) The following measures, both immediate and preventive, have been undertaken to protect the workers from disease:

(i) Fogging by 3 big tyre mounted fogging machines and Fifteen nos. of hand held fogging machines was immediately started to cover the villages from where these cases were reported.

(ii) More than 50 nos. of Rucksack Hand held sprayers have been purchased for door to door spraying of insecticide and spraying of antiviral insecticide is going on round the clock.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.