

#### **Clarification of coal blocks as Go and No Go areas**

3582. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the issue of Go and No Go areas has been referred to the Group of Ministers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of contentious issues relating to Go and No Go areas between the Ministry and Ministry of Coal; and
- (d) the details of coal blocks classified out of nearly 600 coal blocks as No Go areas in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): (a) The Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI) while considering the note dated 26.11.2010 and supplementary note dated 10.12.2010 from the Ministry of Coal regarding "Need for making available more coal bearing areas for enhancing coal production" in its meeting held on 13.01.2011, directed that all pertinent issues, including issue of Go and No Go areas, may, in the first instance/be considered by a Group of Ministers (GoM), and thereafter, the matter be brought before the Committee. The Cabinet Secretariat vide their Memorandum dated 3rd February 2011 constituted a GoM under the Chairmanship of Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Finance.

(c) Ministry of Coal is of the view that Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) should consider all coal blocks without reference to Go- No Go areas, as per the current statutes and stipulations for according forest clearances. The MoEF is however of the view that classification of coal blocks into 'Go' - 'No Go' category, though has only indicative value, the exercise under taken by the MoEF on initiative of Ministry of Coal has clearly prioritized the forest areas that may be made available for coal mining by causing least possible damage to the forests and wildlife and hence, it may be taken into account in grant of approvals under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

- (d) Details of coal blocks classified into 'go' and 'no go' category is given in statement.

**Statement**

*Details of coal blocks classified in 'Go' and 'No Go' category*

| Sl.No. | Coalfield       | State                         | Total Blocks  |            | Blocks classified as 'No Go' |            | Blocks classified as 'Go' |            |
|--------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|---------------------------|------------|
|        |                 |                               | No. of Blocks | Area (ha.) | No. of Blocks                | Area (ha.) | No. of Blocks             | Area (ha.) |
| 1      | Talcher         | Orissa                        | 82            | 80,400     | 07                           | 10,200     | 75                        | 70,200     |
| 2      | IB Valley       | Orissa, Chhattisgarh          | 49            | 51,600     | 16                           | 21,300     | 33                        | 30,300     |
| 3      | Mandiraigarh    | Chhattisgarh                  | 80            | 1,18,200   | 48                           | 77,900     | 32                        | 40,300     |
| 4      | Sohagpur        | Chhattisgarh/MadhyaPradesh    | 110           | 1,27,550   | 12                           | 22,550     | 98                        | 105,000    |
| 5      | Wardha          | Maharashtra                   | 113           | 82,900     | 09                           | 34,900     | 104                       | 48,000     |
| 6      | Singrauli       | Madhya Pradesh/ Uttar Pradesh | 46            | 66,800     | 20                           | 31,000     | 26                        | 35,800     |
| 7      | North Karanpura | Jharkhand                     | 63            | 60,600     | 12                           | 21,300     | 51                        | 39,300     |
| 8      | West Bokaro     | Jharkhand                     | 39            | 14,800     | 9                            | 3,300      | 30                        | 11,500     |
| 9      | Hasdeo          | Chhattisgarh                  | 20            | 45,883     | 20                           | 45,883     | 0                         | 0          |
| Total  |                 |                               | 602           | 6,48,733   | 153 *                        | 2,68,333   | 449                       | 380,400    |

\*: 28 Coal blocks which are presently classified as 'No Go' have been identified jointly by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Ministry of Coal for boundary modification. On boundary modification, category of some of these blocks may change from 'No Go' to 'Go'.