

Implementation of UN Convention on Disabled

1201. SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps that have been taken for the implementation of UNCRPD (UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) to which Government of India has signed and ratified in 2006; and

(b) the measures taken for the Implementation of UN Convention at the State level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI D. NAPOLEON) : (a) and (b) The United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), to which India is a party, has come into effect on 03.05.2008. Obligations and provisions of the Convention were conveyed to all the State Governments/Union Territories and concerned Central Ministries/Departments for taking appropriate action. The Ministry is working to replace the existing Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 with a legislation for the empowerment of persons with disabilities which will be in harmony with UNCRPD. The Ministry has initiated the process of preparing the First Country Report of India as per article 35 of the Convention on measures taken to give effect to its obligations under the Convention and on progress made in that regard, in consultation with State Governments.

Committee report on S-Band spectrum

1202. DR. T. N. SEEMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Committee appointed by the Government to enquire into the Devas-ISRO/Antrix deal on S-band spectrum has submitted its report;

(b) if so, whether a copy of the committee report will be placed before the House;

(c) the acts of omission and commission in the signing of the deal as found by the committee; and

(d) the action that is proposed to be taken against the officers who have committed irregularities in the signing of agreement with the private company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Committee constituted by the Government to enquire into the Antrix Devas deal has submitted its report. The report is under the examination by the Government. Further necessary action will be taken after completing the examination of the Committee's report by following due procedures.

Purchasing of Coking Coal by SAIL and RIL

†1203. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that during the last two years, SAIL and RIL made major purchases of coking coal at the time when its price was very high in the international market;

(b) whether it is also a fact that profit margin of these companies was low due to the purchase of coal at a high cost;

(c) whether Government would inquire into this episode; and

(d) if so, by when this inquiry would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA) : (a) Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) and Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd. (RINL) are PSUs under the Ministry of Steel having a status of Maharatna and Navaratna respectively and enjoy delegated powers. The procurement of imported coking coal is a commercial decision of the companies and procurement is done as per their requirements under laid down policy through Long Term Agreement (LTA) and global tenders. As per international market practice, quantities under Long Term Agreements are settled annually by the Empowered Joint Committee (EJC) comprising representatives of both SAIL and RINL. EJC while negotiating quantities and prices with long term suppliers takes the FOB prices settled by Japanese Steel Mills and others as reported in the international coal journals as the benchmark. The annual requirement is tied up at the beginning of the year and the same is confirmed and received quarter-wise throughout the year.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.