(a) whether the Ministry proposes to reconsider the existing policy of levying excise and sales tax on major minerals by the Central Government and imposition of surcharges on them by the State Governments which results in doubling the tax liability for mining companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to declare major minerals included in the first schedule as unimportant minerals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) As per the draft Mines and Mineral (Development and Regulation) Bill, 2011 approved by Government on 30.9.2011, the Central Government may levy and collect a cess not exceeding two and one half per cent on major minerals on the basis of customs and excise duty, *inter alia* for funding expenditures of independent authorities to be set up for mineral sector, promoting scientific mining research and development, capacity building of technical regulators, promotion of information technology in mining sector, and detection and prevention of illegal mining. The draft Bill also provides that State Governments may levy and collect a cess on major minerals and minor minerals not exceeding ten per cent of the royalty for capacity building of State regulatory bodies, setting up of Special Courts and for curbing illegal mining.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. However, the draft Bill proposes that prior approval of the Central Government shall be necessary only in the matters pertaining to coal minerals, atomic minerals and beach sand minerals.

Comprehensive scheme for J & K

*280. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Jammu and Kashmir is deficient in power and people suffer for want of it, especially during winters; and

(b) whether Government would devise a comprehensive scheme to cover the hinterland of the State such as Tulail, Machil, Keran, Gurez, Karnah, Marh, Mahoor, areas in Rangarh, Basohli, Billawar, etc. through solar system?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir. The State of Jammu & Kashmir is reported to be deficient in power by about 23% to 32%.

(b) The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy provides solar systems under its Remote Village Electrification (RVE) and Solar Energy schemes. Under the RVE scheme, un-electrified remote census villages and remote un-electrified hamlets of these villages, where grid connectivity is either not feasible or not cost effective are electrified / illuminated through renewable energy sources. Under this scheme, the Ministry has sanctioned electrification / illumination of 440 villages and 20 hamlets through solar lights. Out of this, 160 villages have been completed and 280 villages are under implementation. This apart, 28672 nos. solar lanterns, 23080 nos. solar home lights, 5596 nos. solar street lights, 39 nos. solar water pumps and standalone SPV power projects of 253.85 kWp capacity have been installed in various parts of the State. Further, the Ministry has sanctioned 20,000 nos of solar home lighting systems for all districts of Jammu & Kashmir. 15150 solar lanterns are also being distributed to Gujjar & Bakerwals community of the State.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Allocation of coal between small and big consumers

†2016. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE :
SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the prescribed objectives for e-auction of the coal has been achieved;

(b) whether small consumers and industries are facing a lot of difficulties due to dominance of the big consumer industries in e-auction leading to shortage in coal supply;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any meeting of coal linkage committee has been held for reasonable and uniform allocation of coal between small and big consumers;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.