

(a) whether it is a fact that due to Government's policies, the Coal India Limited (CIL) failed to acquire coal mines at international level;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) the policies due to which CIL has been failed, so far; and

(d) the amount of capital invested in foreign coal mines by CIL upto September, 2011?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) The powers vested with CIL by virtue of being a Maharatna Company empowers the Board to approve investment of specified amount of capital in overseas coal assets. As a matter of fact, CIL, floated an expression of interest for selection of strategic partners from four countries namely Indonesia, South Africa, Australia and USA in July, 2009. After evaluation some of the proposals were short listed and due diligence activities were carried out for 3 brown-fielded coal assets from listed companies one each in Indonesia, Australia and USA in May-June 2010. At the time of submitting final and binding bid in May 2011 it was decided to seek guidelines from Ministry of Coal (MoC), whether CIL should invest in unlisted coal assets belonging to listed companies and what would be the minimum internal rate of return (IRR%) of investment overseas. This led to most of the acquisition activities being kept on hold for few months which have been again restarted after receipt of reply from Government/ MoC in November, 2011 to proceed with unlisted companies and preferably pursue opportunities with minimum IRR of 12%.

The Government had earlier approved formation of a Special purpose Vehicle (SPV) "International Coal Ventures Limited" (ICVL) with the participation of CIL/SAIL/RINL/NMDC & NTPC for acquisition of coal resources abroad. ICVL is also actively pursuing acquisition of one coal asset in Australia and one coal asset in Indonesia. Proposals received from several countries are being reviewed and due diligence is in progress. ICVL is also participating in bidding process for acquisition of equity in some undeveloped coal assets. However, no acquisition has been made so far.

(d) CIL till date has acquired prospecting license for two coal blocks in Mozambique through a wholly owned subsidiary Coal India Africana Limitada (CIAL) formed in Mozambique with the normal capital of USD 1000.

Coal block allocation

2033. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) how many coal blocks have been identified for allocation to Orissa Mining Corporation (OMC) Ltd., a State PSU of Odisha;

(b) what principle is followed for allocating coal blocks of one State to other States; and

(c) what are the reasons for allocating coal block located in Odisha to the PSUs of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh in view of the fact that these States have adequate coal reserve?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) No coal blocks have been identified for allocation to Orissa Mining Corporation (OMC), a State PSU of Orissa.

(b) and (c) Under the Govt. Company dispensation route, the list of blocks identified is circulated to all the Central Ministries/ State Governments and applications are invited from the State Governments/Central Govt, for Government companies. Under this route, only Government companies are allocated coal blocks both for specified end use and for commercial mining where there is no restriction of captive use. Under this arrangement, 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, proximity of coal blocks to the proposed end use projects, recommendation / support of State Government concerned etc. There are no specific guidelines for allocation of coal/lignite blocks to Govt. PSUs (both Central and State) for commercial mining or to meet their own requirements.

Infrastructure for measurement of calorific value in packed food

2034. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that in India the adequate physical infrastructure such as nutrition labs to give detailed nutrient content and calorific values of packed food as demanded by the law were not available;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC