

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) A Group of Ministers constituted by the Central Government is considering measures that can be taken by the Government to tackle corruption which *inter alia* include the introduction of state funding of elections. The Group of Ministers has discussed certain formulations which could be adopted to address this issue but a final decision is yet to be taken in consultation of political parties.

(c) Does not arise.

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## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

### Performance of CIL

621. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has slammed the Coal India Limited (CIL) for tardy budgetary allocations for community peripheral development which was only 0.7 percent of the company's aggregating net profit of Rs.31,062.3 crore;

(b) whether CAG also blamed CIL for negligence in getting mandatory environmental clearances as well as violation of safety parameters in more than 18 open cast mines; and

(c) if so, what mechanism CIL and its subsidiaries propose to evolve to set up measurable targets with timeline so that performance of CIL could be improved and monitored properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and would be placed on the table of the House.

### Coal mining technology

622. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our old coal mining technology is one of the major reasons for less production of coal in the country; and

(b) if so; the details of action taken to modernize the coal mining technology so as to increase the coal production in the country and save the foreign exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) It is a fact that old coal mining technology particularly, in the underground mines, gives less production. However, the Opencast mines under the command of Coal India Ltd. (CIL), Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) and Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. (NLC) are being operated with various modern mining technologies. No new mine is presently being planned with manual mining methods and existing manual mines are being phased out/converted into intermediate technology mines i.e. with Side Discharge Loaders (SDLs)/ Load Haul Dumpers (LHDs). Therefore, the overall impact on production from old coal mining technology is negligible.

(b) The modern technology has been adopted to the extent practicable in the coalfields for maximum extraction of coal economically with due regard to safety & conservation. The following actions have been taken to modernize the coal mining technology to increase coal production in the country.

- For increasing mechanization in the underground mines, it is planned to increase the number of coal winning machines substantially, especially deploying SDLs/LHDs and Continuous Miners (CMs). The proposed population of SDLs/LHDs and CMs in CIL is envisaged to increase from the level of 964 & 6 nos. to 1328 & 27 nos. respectively. At present 6 nos. of CMs are working and another 12 CMs are in various stages of procurement. SCCL has introduced SDLs, LHDs, Blasting Gallery method, Long wall method and Continuous Miner. Short wall methods are also being introduced in underground mines to increase capacity, productivity and safety standards. NLC is operating their mines with state of the art specialized mining equipment which include Bucket Wheel Excavators, Conveyor belts, Stacker reclaimers etc.
- Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)/ Coal India Limited (CIL) has offered Muraidih Underground Mine to the mine operator through global bid for a target production of 2.0 Mty by Long wall mining. Another 6 underground mines in BCCL are in various stages of bidding for producing coal on turnkey basis. All these mines are to be operated by mass production technologies.
- 18 abandoned mines [6 mines in Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), 8 in BCCL & 4 in Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)] are also envisaged for reopening, salvaging and operating through joint venture route to attract state of the art technology for such mines.