

- v where such area is considered for allocation to a company or corporation that has been awarded a power project on the basis of competitive bids for tariff (including Ultra Mega Power Projects).

The Government has notified 'the Auction by Competitive Bidding of Coal Mines Rules, 2012' in the Gazette of India on 02.02.2012. Further, allocation of coal blocks would be made as per the amended provisions of the Act and the rules framed thereunder.

(e) and (f) A Coal Regulatory Authority is proposed to be set up to regulate and conserve resources in the coal sector; protect the interests of consumers and producers of coal and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The proposed Regulator is expected to create a level playing field for all the players in the coal sector and to facilitate faster resolution of issues relating to economic pricing of coal, bench marking of standards of performance etc.

Bidding for coal block allocation

3258. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government had decided way back in 2004 that all future allocations of coal blocks to private parties for captive mining would be made on the basis of competitive bidding;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the bureaucratic ping-pong killed Government's order for coal blocks to be auctioned;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has taken corrective measures now to ensure that the coal blocks are allocated on the basis of competitive bidding; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL) : (a) to (f) Initially a proposal for introduction of allocation of coal blocks through competitive bidding by amendment of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 was circulated in 2005 for inter-ministerial consultations. After discussions and deliberations at various levels, a view emerged that the bidding system be introduced through amendment of Mines & Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

Accordingly, the Bill to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 seeking to introduce competitive bidding system for allocation of coal blocks for captive use was introduced in the Rajya Sabha. After detailed

examination by the Standing Committee on Steel and Coal and after having further consultations with the State Governments and stakeholders, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2010 regarding introduction of competitive bidding system for allocation of coal blocks for captive use was passed by the both Houses of Parliament and it has been notified in Gazette of India (Extraordinary) on 9th September, 2010. The Amended Act seeks to provide for grant of reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence or mining lease in respect of an area containing coal and lignite through auction by competitive bidding, on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed. This, would however, not be applicable in the following cases :-

- v where such area is considered for allocation to a Government company or corporation for mining or such other specified and use;
- v where such area is considered for allocation to a company or corporation that has been awarded a power project on the basis of competitive bids for tariff (including Ultra Mega Power Projects).

The Government has notified 'the Auction by Competitive Bidding of Coal Mines Rules, 2012' in the Gazette of India on 02.02.2012. Further, allocation of coal blocks would be made as per the amended provisions of the Act and the rules framed thereunder.

Pending coal projects

3259. SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether, due to non-availability of complete land records with the State Governments, a large number of projects are getting delayed in the country;
- (b) if so, the details in this regard;
- (c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by Government in this regard;
- (d) the details of the coal projects pending for statutory clearances, such as forestry clearances, environmental clearances, clearances of the Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS), as on date;
- (e) the details of criteria fixed for such statutory clearances; and
- (f) the details of steps taken by Government to expedite clearances of such projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL) : (a) and (b) Coal Companies are dependent on State Governments/District Authorities for authentication of land for providing compensation as per provisions of the Acts and employments as per Rehabilitation and Resettlement