

Production of coal by private sector companies

†3261. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has given the responsibility of coal production to private sector by allocating coal blocks to them, with a view to increase coal production in the country;

(b) if so, the number of coal blocks which had come under the jurisdiction of private sector and which have started the production till February, 2012; and

(c) the target which was fixed for coal production and the actual quantity of coal produced by the private sector till February, 2012?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A total of 111 coal blocks have been allocated to private sector companies. Out of these, production in 16 coal blocks has commenced.

(c) The target for coal production from coal blocks allocated to private and government sector companies was 38.25 Million Tonnes (MT) for 2011-2012. The total production from captive coal blocks during the year 2011-12 was 36.24 MT (Provisional) out of which 21.451 MT was from coal blocks allocated to private companies.

Coal block allocation

3262. SHRI BALBIR PUNJ : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Odisha has proven coal reserves of approximately 27 per cent of the country and out of 29 blocks allocated in the State only few have been allocated to State PSUs and power sector in the State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Ministry would give a detailed report on coal blocks allocated to State PSUs and private companies within the State in the mineral rich States like Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal and Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL) : (a) and (b) Coal and lignite are scarce national fuel resources. Ministry of Coal is mandated to ensure equitable distribution of the natural resources. To restrict the use of these resources only within the State of their occurrence may not be in the overall interest of national economy and integration. If a particular coal bearing State is allowed a special dispensation, then other States, where coal,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.