

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) While approving the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM), the Government approved a mission target of ramping up the capacity of grid connected solar power generation to 1,100 MW within three years (by 2013) and an additional capacity creation of 3,000 MW by 2017. It also decided that the capacity proposed for phase II (3,000 MW) could be more than doubled-reaching 10,000 MW installed power by 2017 or more, based on a variety of factors in the enabling ecosystem including price reduction and technological advancements. The experience of the selection process of the first phase of the mission has been that of a significant fall in price. In view of these developments, the Ministry has proposed a target of 3,000 MW capacity addition through government support and additional capacity of 6,000 MW through compliance of solar RPO during Phase 2 by 2017 thereby taking the cumulative installed capacity to 10,000 MW by 2017.

(c) and (d) No such estimates have been prepared.

New formula for coal price

†*78. SHRI MEGHRAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken to determine the price of coal on the basis of a new formula from January, 2012;

(b) if so, the details of the old and new formulae of price determination; and

(c) the reasons for making this change now and the likely percentage of rise in the price of coal on implementation of a new system of price determination?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has decided to switch over from the existing Useful Heat Value (UHV) based grading and pricing system of coal to Gross Calorific Value (GCV) based classification of non-coking coal w.e.f. 1st January, 2012. In the UHV based system, the coal grading was determined in seven bands on ash and moisture content. In the new mechanism, the coal was classified on the basis of gross calorific value into seventeen bands with bandwidth of 300 Kcal/kg each.

(c) The decision on the above migration is based on international coal trading practices. The Integrated Energy Policy Document and the Expert Committee headed by Shri T.L. Sankar on Coal Sector Reforms also recommended for the same. The new mechanism is more scientific and accurate and ensures uniform price across the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) with exception of prices of Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL). The implementation of the GCV based system is expected to improve the quality of coal supply and reduce the consumer complaints.

Initially the price of coal in the GCV system was finalised by CIL on the basis of Rupees per Million Kilo calories heat value by providing various discounts on exunload

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

port price of imported Coal. Based on the feedback received from various coal consumers, the issue of coal pricing has been reviewed by the CIL and revised, taking into account the weighted average price of CIL for a particular grade and linking the same to the midpoint of the relevant GCV band and ensuring that revenue neutrality and existing price to the extent possible is maintained.

Deep sea mining

*79. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to undertake deep sea mining for minerals in South and Central Indian Ocean on the pattern of Chinese exploration, which has been allowed by International Seabed Authority; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCE (SHRI VILASRAO DESHMUKH): (a) and (b) The International Seabed Authority has entered into a 15-year contract with India in the year 2002 for pursuing exploration activity for deep sea mineral resources in the Indian Ocean on lines similar to its contracts with other countries including China. In pursuance of this agreement, the Ministry of Earth Science has undertaken exploration activity for which a total area of 75000 sq. km. in the Central Indian Ocean Basin is available to it. India hopes to be amongst the few countries of the world which would be able to explore for deep sea mineral resources in the years ahead.

Supply of essential commodities

*80. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted regarding implementation of various rules and regulations pertaining to supply of essential commodities and price control in different States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons arrested, prosecuted and convicted under the Essential Commodities Act, 1995 during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken for smooth supply of essential commodities and to control their prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) No specific survey has been conducted by the Government regarding implementation of various rules and regulations pertaining to supply of essential commodities and price control in different States.

Concurrent evaluation of the functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) from different agencies from time to time have, however, been