

(b) if so, why Government is allowing large private companies, like JSPL, TISCO, etc., which have been allocated coal blocks free of cost to sell power at merchant rates, thereby gaining a windfall profit of 50-80 per cent;

(c) whether Government proposes to take any steps to stop sale of power at merchant rates by such companies; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL): (a) In order to supply coal to power projects commissioned in the 11th Plan and getting commissioned upto 2014-15 in 12th Plan, Coal India Limited (CIL) has been advised to sign Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs) for full quantity of coal mentioned in the Letter of Assurances (LOAs) with trigger level of 80% for levy of disincentives and 90% for levy of incentives, with power plants that have entered into long-term PPAs with discoms. As part of 12th Plan coal linkage policy, Ministry of Power has included the condition that actual drawal of coal will be subject to 85% of power being tied up through long term PPA with discoms through tariff based competitive bidding (except for PSU projects where PPAs were signed by 5.1.2011).

For supply of gas, Empowered Group of Ministers (EGoM) on Gas Pricing and Commercial Utilization of Gas directed that the existing and future allocations of New Exploration License Policy (NELP) gas to power plants be subject to the condition that the entire electricity produced from the allocated gas shall only be sold to the Distribution Licensees at tariffs determined or adopted (in case of bidding) by the tariff regulator of the power plant. The gas will be supplied only for the duration of the PPA and supply of gas will start only after the signing of PPA. The PPA may initially be for one year (short term PPA) during which electricity shall be sold at the tariff determined by the regulator and the subsequent PPA should be for medium term or long term. The EGoM also authorized the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to cancel the current allocation of any power plant(s) not complying with the aforesaid conditions.

(b) to (d) Ministry of Coal is being requested to advise all the coal block allocatees to participate in the bids for sale of power from end use projects as per the guidelines of Ministry of Power or face cancellation of coal block allocation. This would be applicable to coal blocks for private power projects.

#### **Bio-technology finishing schools and bio-informatics parks**

591. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

SHRI BALAVANT ALIAS BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of different States in the country promoting Biotechnology Finishing Schools to create skilled workforce for Biotechnology Industry;

(b) whether Government proposes to set up a Bioinformatics Park in the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) The Department of Biotechnology is implementing Biotech Industrial Training Programme to provide six months industrial exposure to B.Tech./M.Sc./M.Tech.(Biotechnology) students to enhance their employability and to create industry ready manpower. There is provision to train 700 students in the current year with stipend to the trainees and bench fee to the trainer companies. Over 120 industries from all parts of country are involved in providing training. About 25-30% trainees find permanent placement.

Karnataka State Government has initiated a Biotechnology Finishing school in 2011 for providing industrially relevant training to post graduate students in life sciences. 12 colleges from Karnataka are providing one year training in 9 specialised areas in collaboration with industry, out of which first six months training is imparted in colleges and next six months are devoted to industrially relevant projects. Proposal submitted by Karnataka State Government to the Department of Biotechnology is under consideration.

(b) Yes, Sir. Government proposes to set up a Bio-IT centre at Bangalore.

(c) The project will focus on the following goals:

Conducting cutting-edge research in Bio-IT, providing training to empower students, promoting techno-preneurship and achieving self-sustenance through commercialization. Infrastructure is being set up and training and research activities are being initiated.

#### **CSIR laboratory in Rajasthan**

†592. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up any laboratory under the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the locations where these are set up in the State and whether any amount for them has been allocated by the Central Government; and

(c) if not, whether there is any scheme for the State in the future?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has setup a laboratory namely, CSIR-Central Electronics Engineering Research Institute (CSIR-CEERI) in Rajasthan.

(b) CSIR-CEERI is located at Pilani and it has been allocated Rs. 58.84 crore in the current financial year.

(c) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.