

**Setting up of medical college and hospital in Talcher**

†1265. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the State Government for providing land for setting up of medical college and hospital in Talcher, Odisha;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if not, the reasons for the delay; and
- (d) by when the proposed medical college and hospital would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of reply to part (a) above, question does not arise.

(c) and (d) The land identified for setting up of the medical college includes forest land, which requires clearances from the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Government of Odisha. The construction of the college and other infrastructure can only be started after the clearances are obtained and possession of land is taken. Hence, the timelines for starting of the college cannot be given at this stage.

**Permission for private mining of coal**

1266. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is seeking to introduce legislative changes allowing private mining of coal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is also contemplating allocation of captive blocks for setting up washeries in the private sector and allowing them to sell their coal in the open market;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the implication of this change on public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) The Central Government decided to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to allow Indian companies both in the public and private sectors to mine coal in the country without the existing restriction of captive mining and to be engaged in exploration of coal in the country. Accordingly a Bill, namely, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 24.04.2000. Due to stiff resistance from the trade

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Unions, the Bill could not be processed further after the report of the Standing Committee.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of answer given of part (c) of the question.

#### **Identification of priority households**

1267. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the methodology to be used to identify the priority households in the National Food Security Bill, 2010;

(b) whether Government has addressed the concerns about the proposed methodology.

(c) whether BPL data from the sources like Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India would be used; and

(d) the mechanism to ensure that all BPL families receive the specified amount of foodgrains every month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) The National Food Security Bill, 2011, introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22nd December, 2011, seeks to cover upto 75% of the rural population (with at least 46% belonging to the priority households) and upto 50% of the urban population (with at least 28% belonging to the priority households) for receiving subsidized foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). The Bill provides that within the State-wise number of persons belonging to the priority households and general households, determined by the Central Government, identification of households shall be done by the State Governments or such other agency, in accordance with the guidelines prescribed by the Central Government.

The Ministry of Rural Development is coordinating the on-going Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC), 2011 which is a door to door census of rural and urban households in the country carried out by State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to collect information on a number of socio-economic indicators to determine the eligibility and entitlements of rural households for different Central Government Programmes and Schemes. Office of Registrar General and Census Commissioner, India is providing technical support. The methodology for identification of people under poverty line has not been arrived at.

(d) Under TPDS, foodgrains at subsidized prices are allocated for about 6.52 crore BPL households (including 2.43 crore Antyodaya Anna Yojana households) @ 35kg per household per month. Implementation of TPDS is joint responsibility of Central Government and State/Union Territory (UT) Governments. While allocation of foodgrains for above mentioned BPL households is made by Central Government,