

the Department of Justice, Department of Urban Development and the State Governments.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Allocation of coal acreages

*349 SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given coal acreages without auction to private power, steel and cement companies during the last ten years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and what is Government's policy for allocation of coal acreages to such private companies;

(c) whether Government has conducted any study to ascertain the loss suffered by Government on account of allocation of coal acreages without auction; and

(d) the details of the private companies to whom coal acreages have been allocated?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) 195 coal blocks with geological reserves of about 44.23 billion tonnes stand allocated as on date which include 111 coal blocks allocated to various private sector companies (including coal blocks allocated to power projects under tariff based competitive bidding).

Under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, coal mining was mostly reserved for the public sector. By an amendment to the Act in 1976, two exceptions to the policy were introduced *viz.*, (i) captive mining by private companies engaged in production of iron and steel, and (ii) sublease for coal mining to private parties in isolated small pockets not amenable to economic development and not requiring rail transport. Therefore, private companies are eligible for captive mining for specified approved end uses.

The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 was amended from time to time and after the amendment in 1993, mining for captive consumption was permitted for generation of power, washing of coal obtained from a mine and other end uses to be notified by Government from time to time, in addition to the existing provision for captive coal mining for production of iron and steel. Under the powers conferred on the Central Government by Section 3(3)(a)(iii)(4) of the Act, another Gazette Notification was issued on 15.03.1996 to allow captive mining of coal for production of cement. Production of syn-gas obtained through coal gasification (underground and surface) and coal liquefaction was notified as an end use for coal mining on 12.07.2007.

With a view to bringing in transparency, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2010 regarding introduction of competitive bidding system for allocation of coal blocks for captive use, has been notified in Gazette of India (Extraordinary) on 9th September, 2010. The Amendment 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:-

- where such area is considered for allocation to a Government company or corporation for mining or such other specified end use;
- 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' on 02.02.2012 in the Gazette of India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) A total of 111 coal blocks have been allocated to various private sector companies as per details given below.

Power Sector	27
Iron and Steel	61
Cement	6
Coal to Liquid	2
Small and Isolated	3
Ultra Mega Power Projects	12
Total	111

Allocation of coal blocks

*350 SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities have been reported in allocation of coal blocks to commercial entities during 2004-09 in the draft report of CAG causing loss of Rs. 10.7 lakh crore to Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the companies which have been allocated coal contracts during the said period;

(d) whether tenders were invited and auction was done for allocation of coal blocks;