

Development of coal mines

2334. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of functional and non-functional coal mines in the country;
- (b) whether Government proposes to revive the non-functional coal mines and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to assign the task of development of coal mines to private sector companies; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) As on 01/4/2012, the total number of functional and non-functional coal mines in Coal India Ltd. (CIL) & Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) are 515 and 174 respectively.

(b) to (d) Initially eighteen underground abandoned mines, each having more than 10 million tonnes of reserves of Coal India Ltd. (CIL) were identified for revival by inviting expression of interest (EoI) for selection of Joint Venture partners. The response for the EoI was not satisfactory. Hence, CIL has decided to revive these mines by appointing the Mine Developer & Operator (MDO). The 18 mines proposed for revival are located in : Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (6), Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (8) and Central Coalfields Ltd. (4). In addition, the Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) proposes to revive 3 closed mines namely, MNG opencast at Manuguru; RKP opencast at Mandamarri and RG opencast III phase 2 at Godavari Khani during the XII plan period.

Coal blocks pending for EMP clearance

2335. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that out of 195 allocated coal blocks, 148 coal blocks are pending for forest clearances and 115 coal blocks are pending for Environmental Management Plan (EMP) clearance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to have the early clearances?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details thereof are as under: Detailed status of Statewise pending Environment and forest clearance are as follows:

Sl No.	State Name	No. of coal blocks are awaiting for Environment clearance.	No. of coal blocks are awaiting for Forest clearance at State & Central level (excluding RE blocks)	Note
1	Andhra Pradesh	01	1	Pending Forest clearance statewise are given only for Explored blocks and proposal are pending at State & Central level.
2	Chhattisgarh	31	20	
3	Jharkhand	27	23	
4	Maharastra	08	14	
5	Madhya Pradesh	14	05	
6	Orissa	25	16	
6	West Bengal	09	07	
TOTAL		115	86	

(c) Ministry of Coal regularly monitors the progress and takes up issues of common nature for expediting Environment Clearance (EC) and Forest Clearance (FC) with Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF). Further Government has constituted a Group of Ministers to look into the issues concerning coal mining projects and environment with a view to expedite clearance. This is a continuous process and request has been made to MoEF to adhere to specified time frame for extending clearances of EC & FC.

As recommended by a Group of Ministers constituted to address the environmental and developmental issues relating to coal mining and other developmental projects, MoEF has been requested to introduce a system for on line processing of application for EC and FC for reducing delays.