

Auctioning of coal mines

†333. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has framed a policy to give coal mines to corporate sector in future on the basis of auction and if so, the details of the policy;

(b) whether it is a fact that implementing this policy would result in fourfold increase in the prices of coal and impact industries adversely; and

(c) if so, the manner in which Government would address the adverse conditions caused by auction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2010 was passed by the Parliament and has been notified in Gazette of India (Extraordinary) on 9th September, 2010. It provides 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 2nd February, 2012.

(b) and (c) No assessment has been made in this regard.

Target of coal production

334. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that production target of coal for 2012-13 had been fixed at 584 million tones on the direction of the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.