

Construction of 344 houses at Bhuli, Bhimkanali, Nichitpur and Katras Coal Dump for in triple storied blocks for BCCL affected areas has been completed in non-coal bearing zone.

Action has been initiated for road and rail diversion from the endangered areas.

Auctioning of coal blocks

336. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken a decision to allocate coal blocks in the country to the private companies through auction system;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any coal blocks have already been allocated to any company, so far; and
- (d) the details thereof and the criteria adopted in such allocation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) 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.

- (c) No coal blocks have been allocated under the amended provisions.
- (d) Does not arise in view of reply given to (c) above.