

(a) whether it is a fact that the projects being executed by the Central Sector/State Sector PSUs attract priority in the matter of Coal Blocks/Coal linkages allocation/allotment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) still enjoys the status of the Public Sector Undertaking;

(d) whether the Government has allocated any coal block to BALCO on the basis of the Public Sector Undertaking resulting in loss to Government exchequer in crores;

(e) if so, the action taken/being taken by Government against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Coal blocks are separately earmarked for allocation to eligible Central Sector/State Sector PSUs under Government company dispensation route. Under this process the list of blocks identified is circulated to all the Central Ministries/State Governments. Applications are invited from the State Governments/Central Government for Government Companies. Under this route, only Government Companies are allocated coal blocks both for specified end use and for commercial mining where there is no restriction of captive use.

Standing Linkage Committee (Long-Term) recommends for issuance of "Letter of Assurance" (LoA) based on the recommendations of Ministry of Power and taking into account other relevant factors. No priority is given to the projects being executed by the Central Sector/State Sector PSUs for grant of Letter of Assurance for coal allocation.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO) has been disinvested on 2nd March 2001 along with management control in favour of a Strategic Partner (SP) namely M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. As such, BALCO is no longer a Government Company.

(e) Does not arise in view of the answer given in parts (c) and (d) above.

#### **Import of coal**

328. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has sought permission to import coal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that power companies are not ready to purchase coal from CIL;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) No, Sir. Import of coal is presently under Open General License (OGL). Therefore no permission is required to import coal by any organization including CIL.

- (b) Question does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Question does not arise.
- (e) The supply of imported coal is now an integral part under the modified FSA models. The power projects which do not choose to get imported coal on cost plus basis from CIL would be free to meet the shortfall between the indigenous coal supplied by CIL and their requirement from other available sources including imports.

#### **Selling of coal blocks and coal linkage**

329. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the power sector is being given priority in allotment of coal linkage and coal blocks across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has received any complaints against the power companies for selling coal blocks/linkage to some foreign power companies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has put in place any regulation in order to prevent misuse of coal blocks/linkage; and