

Committee for investment in coal resources abroad

4200. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any committee has been constituted to monitor and regulate the funds meant for investment in coal resources abroad through joint ventures ; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof including its constitution and membership?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) The Board of Directors of Coal India Limited (CIL) has constituted a sub-committee of its Board known as Foreign Acquisition Committee, which monitors the foreign investment proposals.

Illegal coal transactions

4201. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Central and State Governments are deprived of hundreds of crore of revenue due to clandestine transaction of coal;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the Central and State Government officials are also involved in this; and
- (c) what are the steps taken by the Ministry to curb this illegal practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) As illegal coal transaction are carried out stealthily and clandestinely, it is not possible to specify the exact quantum of coal stolen and losses incurred on account of such pilferage of coal. Whenever the competent agencies of the Central and State Governments take cognizance of any such incident of theft/pilferage of coal and involvement of officials action as per the law is taken. In this connection, Ministry of Coal have written to the Chief Secretaries of coal producing States from time to time, requesting them to put in place effective mechanism to check illegal mining. The States were also asked to give appropriate direction to the concerned authorities to take effective steps to check such illegal activities at places where large scale illegal mining was believed to be occurring. The State Governments were also advised to consider framing of