

(g) India has been placing facts and submissions as per the schedule laid down by the Court.

Task force for underground mine

*200. SHRI A. ELAVARASAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has set up a task force to map out a strategy for increasing production from underground mines, as part of a long term solution to India's coal shortage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the new task force would look into various aspects of underground coal mines such as cost of production, capital requirements, safety and technology and suggest ways for improvement of coal production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (d) Government of India has not set up any Task Force to map out a strategy for increasing production from underground mines. However, Coal India Limited (CIL), at the advise of Ministry of Coal has floated an Expression of Interest in February, 2013 for engaging International Consultants for suggesting modernisation and technological improvement in their mines including both underground and opencast mines. The broad objectives to be covered under the proposed study include assessment of the status of existing technology for safety, production and productivity in the underground and opencast mines of various coal fields of CIL; to assess the gaps in technology upgradation; to assess the requirements of technology and infrastructure development for mine planning and design and construction with regard to the projected coal production during XII, XIII and XV Five Year Plans; to assess the indigenous capabilities in meeting the technology upgradation requirements *vis-a-vis* import dependence; to assess the systems development for meeting the projected technology upgradation; to assess the application of information technology and automation in technology development; and to prepare a roadmap for technology upgradation during the above said Plan periods.
