

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS****Planning for promotion of underground coal gasification**

1396. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is planning to promote underground coal gasification;

(b) whether Government is allowing global explorers to sell the gas from their operations at market prices besides allowing them a seven year tax holiday along with a slew of financial incentives and if so, the details thereof? and

(c) whether Government would ensure fair play and transparency in this process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) With a view to developing Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) potential in our country for energy production, Government has notified UCG as one of the end uses under captive coal mining policy. Five lignite blocks and two coal blocks of estimated reserves 950.5 Million Tonnes had been identified for offer to various companies for taking up UCG projects and the offer of these blocks is under process as per the amended provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act.

**Proposal to extract oil from coal**

1397. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has any proposal to extract oil from coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the techniques experimented for the purpose;

(c) whether some corporates have also shown interest to set up projects in collaboration with foreign companies to produce oil from coal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the oil extracted from coal is likely to be available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) A gazette notification has been issued notifying coal liquefaction as one of the specified end uses for the purpose of allotment of captive coal/lignite blocks to the entrepreneurs. Both direct and indirect methods of converting coal into oil have been tested commercially in different countries. An experimental project using direct conversion technology with the coals of North-Eastern Coalfields has been successfully tested earlier by Oil India Limited.

(c) to (e) Ministry of Coal has allotted two coal blocks in Talcher coalfields, in the district of Angul, Odisha i.e North of Arkhapal-Srirampur Block to M/s. Strategic Energy Technology Systems Ltd. and Ramchandi Block to M/s. Jindal Steel and Power Ltd. with production capacity of about 80,000 barrels of oil per day per project which are expected to commence by 2018.

#### **Supply of coal to Rajasthan**

†1398. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that power generation has been affected in Rajasthan due to non-availability of coal supply to the State in time; and

(b) if so, the details of the fool proof arrangement made by Government to ensure timely supply of coal to the State in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Coal India Limited (CIL) is not aware of power generation getting affected in Rajasthan due to short-supply of coal. The materialization of coal supplied in respect of Annual Contracted Quantity (ACQ) to the Power plants of Rajasthan from CIL sources in the current financial year, (till January, 2013), is 99.1%, with supply of 13.003 Million Tonnes against commitment of 13.121 Million Tonnes.

The coal supplies to Power Utility sector including power plants of Rajasthan are regularly monitored by an inter-Ministerial Sub-Group comprising representatives of Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Power and Ministry of Railways constituted by the Infrastructure Review Committee of Cabinet Secretariat.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.