Cancellation of coal blocks

†2182. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has cancelled the allocation of a few coal mines even after a lot of hue and cry;

(b) the reasons for not cancelling allocation of remaining coal mines whereas the allocation of most of the coal mines was to be cancelled;

(c) whether mismanagement exists in several coal mines of Raigarh district and Sarguja sambhag in Chhattisgarh causing much hardships to the labourers as well as common public which needs to be monitored; and

(d) the reasons for not putting a check on the suppressive attitude of the industrialists of coal mines by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) The review and monitoring of progress of development of the coal blocks allotted and associated end use projects is an ongoing process and is reviewed from time to time. The responsibility of developing the coal block as per the prescribed guidelines and milestone chart attached with the allocation letter rests entirely with the allocattee company. Development of coal blocks involves a gestation period of 3 to 7 years for reaching the production stage and another two to three years for reaching the optimal production capacity. As per the guidelines, coal production from a captive coal block should commence within 36 months (42 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of open cast mines and in 48 months (54 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of underground mine, from the date of allocation. If a coal block is not explored, additional two years are allowed for detailed exploration and three months for preparation of geological report.

The allocattees of coal blocks, who have not started production so far, are in various stages of obtaining statutory clearances and mining lease, preparing mining plan, acquisition of land, procuring machinery and equipment etc. for both mining as well as end-use project. The allocatees submit a status report to the Coal Controller on quarterly basis. The Coal Controller consolidates and sends the same to the Government and the Government on the basis of the above, periodically monitors and reviews the development of allocated blocks as well as end use

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

plants by the allocattee companies in the review meetings. Further, an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has been constituted on 21.06.2012 under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Coal) to review the progress of development of allocated coal/lignite blocks and associated end use projects of the allocattees. Appropriate action including de-allocation, deduction of Bank Guarantee is taken by the Government from time to time.

Based on the recommendations of the then Review Committee and the Inter Ministerial Group (IMG), the Government has so far de-allocated 47 coal blocks. Out of the 47 de-allocated blocks, 2 blocks were allocated again, 3 blocks were assigned to Coal India Limited and in respect of 5 blocks belonging to National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd./Damodar Valley Corporation Ltd./Jharkhand State Electricity Board de-allocation letters were withdrawn.

(c) and (d) The issues related to safety and welfare of labourers engaged in the Coal Mines are monitored and supervised by the concerned authorities who are entrusted with the responsibility for the same under various statutes.

Closure of thermal power plants due to shortage of coal

2183. DR. T.N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether thermal power plants in certain States are in extremely critical phase facing closure due to shortage of coal and if so, the details thereof, plant-wise and State-wise;

(b) the steps taken to ensure adequate supply of coal to all the plants across the country;

(c) whether Government has conducted any survey for exploring new coal reserves in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the estimated quantum available in those new coal reserves, State-wise; and

(e) the follow up action being taken by Government to utilize those coal reserves?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) As per the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) daily coal report, 15 TPPs are carrying Super critical coal stock position as on 06.03.2013. The State-wise TPP-wise details of TPPs carrying super-critical coal stock are tabled below: