

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Acquisition of overseas coal blocks by CIL**

1. SHRIMATI WANSUK SYIEM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a Rs. 42,000 crores reserve, Coal India Ltd. is planning to acquire overseas coal blocks;

(b) whether the Coal Videsh is considering the prevailing low asset valuation of many such coal block in Indonesia, Australia and South Africa as the most opportune time to invest overseas; and

(c) what is the status of exploration of coal blocks as acquired long back by the Coal Videsh in Mozambique?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) CIL has made an ad-hoc provision of Rs. 25,000 crores in the Twelfth Plan period for acquisition of coal assets abroad. However, the fund shall be spent only upon identification and acquisition of a suitable coal asset in foreign countries.

(b) CIL has floated a global expression of interest in the month of February, 2013 inviting owners of coal assets or their representatives and investment bankers to bring proposals to CIL for acquiring coal assets abroad.

(c) CIL is carrying out exploration programme in coal blocks of Mozambique through its wholly owned subsidiary registered in Mozambique, namely, Coal India Africana Limitada (CIAL). The 1st stage of drilling comprising of 10,000 m has been completed and the 2nd stage of drilling comprising of 30,000 m is under progress. The geological mapping of the area falling under the coal block has been completed and the majority of survey work for delineation of the boundary has also been completed. The exploration programme is expected to be completed by mid 2014, subsequent to which future strategies for coal mine development will be decided.

Supply of coal to power projects

2. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state: