

speedy development of coal evacuation, rail infrastructure and progress on environment and forest related clearances. The focus of the Government is to take all measures to facilitate increase in production of coal.

Independent pricing authority for coal

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

- (a) whether Government has any plans to set up an independent pricing authority for coal;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the methodology which would be used by such pricing authority to fix the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The pricing of coal has been fully deregulated by the Government *vide* the Colliery Control Order, 2000 dated 1st January, 2000 in supersession of the Colliery Control Order, 1945. Under the said order, the coal companies themselves fix the coal price based on input costs, inflation index, market trends etc. and notify the same periodically.

Shortage of coal in TPPs

3. DR. PRADEEPKUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) in the country are suffering from acute shortage of coal due to which electricity generation is deteriorating day-by-day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of TPPs being affected for want of coal, State-wise;
- (d) the remedial measures being taken by Government to improve the supply of coal to these TPPs;
- (e) whether NTPC has brought this shortage to the notice of Government; and
- (f) the assurance given by Government for continued coal supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) During the period April-May, 2014, coal based power plants have generated 134.9 Billion Units (BU) as compared to 121.2 BU generated during the same period of last year, registering a growth of 11.3%. As on 29.6.2014, out of 100 coal based power plants monitored by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), 44 power plants were having critical coal stock of less than 7 days' requirement, out of which 26 power plants were having super critical coal stock of less than 4 days' requirement.