

**Action against private coal companies**

3387. SHRI C. M. RAMESH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has completed action initiated against private companies who have not started any production after allocation of coal blocks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether coal blocks were taken back or another opportunity was given to them; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (d) Government periodically reviews and monitors the progress of development of allocated coal blocks as well as associated end use plants through the mechanism of 'Review Committee' earlier and Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) now. The review of coal blocks is an ongoing process. In cases where delays are noticed, Government issues show cause notices and advisories to such allocatees cautioning them to bring the coal blocks into production as per the guidelines/milestones chart. Wherever wilful delay is observed, appropriate action is taken against allocatee companies including de-allocation of coal block(s). Based on the recommendations of the then Review Committee and the IMG now, the Government has so far de-allocated 80 coal blocks including 58 coal blocks allocated to various private companies.

**Approval for GMDC's mining lease application**

3388. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Gujarat Government has recommended a proposal for prior approval of the Ministry for GMDC's mining lease application for lignite sika, sand and ball clay over an area of 854 hectares at villages, Damlia, Padal, Rajpur, Moraan, Taluka and Jhagadia in district Bharuch in the year 2007; and
- (b) if so, the action taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The Government had not invited applications for allocation of lignite blocks under the Government dispensation route during 2007. However, requests from the State Governments including Gujarat, were received. As no lignite blocks were offered for allocation, the requests of State Governments could not be considered.

Coal and lignite blocks were earlier allocated in pursuance of Section 3 of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 wherein the prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mining lease of the allocated coal/lignite blocks are given under the relevant provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Allocation of a lignite block under Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 is a prerequisite before the prior approval of the Central Government is accorded for grant of mining lease under the relevant provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. The above mentioned blocks have not been allocated by the Ministry of Coal to the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (GMDCL). Hence prior approval of mining lease for these areas does not arise.

Under the amended provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules made thereunder, the Central Government on 29.07.2013 has invited applications for allocation of 5 lignite blocks to the State Government companies/corporations located in the State of Gujarat & Rajasthan.

#### **Habitations with contaminated water**

3389. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there are still 2,000 arsenic and 12,000 fluoride affected habitations in the country, which have poor water quality;
- (b) if so, how many of those habitations are located in Tamil Nadu; and
- (c) the steps taken by Government to address the water quality problem in those districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): (a) and (b) State-wise number of rural habitations suffering with excess arsenic and/or fluoride in one or more drinking water sources as reported by the States/ UTs including Tamil Nadu into the online Integrated Management Information System (IMIS) of the Ministry as on 1.4.2014 is given in the Statement (*See below*). As reported by Government of Tamil Nadu as on 1.4.2014, there is no arsenic and fluoride affected habitations which are yet to be provided with safe drinking water in the rural areas of the State.

- (c) Drinking water supply is a State subject. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to the State Departments/ Boards dealing with rural drinking water supply in their efforts of providing