

Re-allocation of coal blocks

†*215. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has cancelled allocation of all coal mines allocated to various companies;
- (b) if not, the names of the companies whose allocation have not been cancelled and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether due to cancellation of coal blocks, the production of coal in the country is adversely affected;
- (d) if so, by when the cancelled coal blocks would be re-allocated; and
- (e) whether Government has issued new directions regarding re-allocation of coal blocks and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL) : (a) to (e) Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 25.08.2014 and order dated 24.09.2014 passed in Writ Petition (Criminal) No.120 of 2012 and other connected matters has declared all allocations of the coal blocks made through Screening Committee and through Government Dispensation route since 1993 as arbitrary and illegal and has cancelled the allocation of 204 coal blocks out of 218 coal blocks (*i.e.* except Tasra coal block allocated to Steel Authority of India Ltd. and Pakri Barwadih coal block allocated to National Thermal Power Corporation and 12 coal blocks allocated for Ultra Mega Power Projects). In case of 42 coal blocks (37 producing and 05 likely to come under production), cancellation shall take effect from 31.03.2015.

As the Hon'ble Supreme Court has allowed coal production from the producing coal blocks till 31st March, 2015, there is no disruption in production of coal at present. For management and reallocation of cancelled coal mines/blocks, Government has promulgated 'the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014' on 21.10.2014 to ensure smooth transfer of rights, title and interest in the mines along with its land and other associated mining infrastructure to the new allottees to be selected through an auction or allotment to government company, as the case may be. The allocation of coal blocks would now be made in pursuance of the provisions of the Ordinance and Rules made thereunder in a time bound manner to ensure that there is no disruption in supply of coal.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.