

**Auction of coal blocks for power sector**

3154.SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has earmarked some coal blocks for auction exclusively for the power sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of coal blocks to be offered for auction;
- (d) the details of coal blocks for direct allotment route;
- (e) by when all these coal blocks would be allocated; and
- (f) whether any schedule has been prepared for the whole process, in view of poor supply of coal to thermal plants recently and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (f) The allocation of coal blocks would be made in pursuance of the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014 and the Rules made thereunder in a time bound manner to ensure that there is no disruption in supply of coal. As per the Ordinance, allocation of Schedule-II and Schedule-III coal mines is to be made for specified end-use. Necessary steps have been initiated to commence the process of allocation of coal blocks. Based on the recommendations of the Technical Committee constituted to formulate criteria and classify coal mines/coal blocks for auction and allotment, a list of coal blocks earmarked for auction and allocation with their specified end-use has been issued on 18-12-2014 and the same has also been uploaded on the web-site of Ministry of Coal. The Government has formulated an Approach Paper for auctioning of coal mines which includes the proposed time schedule of the bidding process. Approach Paper has been uploaded on the web-site of the Ministry seeking comments from members of the public and stakeholders concerned as a part of the process of public consultation.

**Nominated Authority for e-auction of coal blocks**

3155.SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has appointed a nominated authority for the purpose of e-auction of coal blocks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the nominated authority would prepare a mine dossier containing particulars of geographical area, coal reserves, mine infrastructure, approvals, permits, etc., for each mine; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Shri Vivek Bharadwaj, Joint Secretary in the Ministry has been appointed as the Nominated Authority in accordance with the provisions of Section 6 of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014 in addition to his duties.

(c) and (d) Under the provisions of Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Rules, 2014, the nominated authority shall finalise the mine dossier for each Schedule I coal mine based on the information received from the prior allottee as well as information received from persons other than the prior allottee. Mine dossier may include particulars of Schedule I coal mine such as geographical area, coal reserves, other geological information, mine infrastructure, all contracts, any entitlement to mining lease, all statutory licenses, permits, permissions, approvals or consents, relevant to the mining operation.

#### **Dependent on coal mines of EUP**

3156.SHRI T. RATHINAVEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether rules provide that the eligibility to bid for schedule II and III coal mines would be dependent on the status of preparedness of their End Use Plant (EUP);

(b) whether rules also provide that 80 per cent of investment is required to be made in the EUP for schedule II coal mines and 60 per cent of investment is required to be made in the EUP for schedule III mines; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) As per the eligibility criteria specified in the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Rules, 2014, a person who is eligible under sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Ordinance shall also meet the following eligibility criteria, namely:-

(i) a company eligible to bid for any Schedule II coal mine under sub-section (3) of Section 4 of the Ordinance shall have incurred an expenditure of not less than eighty per cent of the total project cost of the unit or phase of the specified end use plant for which the company is bidding.