THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Coal is distributed to different consumers/sectors at the notified price as per provisions of New Coal Distribution Policy (NCDP) dated 18.10.2007 promulgated by Ministry of Coal. An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been constituted in the Ministry of Coal on 12.01.2015 to consider various models on auctioning of coal linkages/LoAs through competitive bidding as the selection process and to recommend the optimal structure that would meet the requirements of all the stakeholders.

(c) and (d) As per NCDP, around 10% of estimated annual production of Coal India Limited (CIL) was initially to be offered under e-auction and the quantity to be offered, was to be reviewed from time to time by Ministry of Coal. During 2014-15, the quantity of coal to be sold under e-auction is expected to be approximately 45 million tonnes which is around 9% of estimated production of coal during the year.

Import of coal

1936. SHRI AJAY SANCHETI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite having a plentiful coal reserves, India has to import a large quantity of coal;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the details of the factors responsible for widening the gap between coal demand and supply; and

(d) the steps taken to remove these bottlenecks in accelerating coal production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) India has adequate coal reserves for meeting its coal requirements. The total coal reserves as on 1st April, 2014 was 301.56 Billion Tonnes (BT) of which 125.91 BT is in the proved category and balance is indicated and inferred categories. At the present juncture, the actual production of coal, however, falls short of the overall demand for coal. Accordingly, the gap between total consumption and domestic supply is being met through import of coal. The domestic production of coal has been constrained due to problems in expanding the capacity arising from difficulties in land acquisition, R&R, geo-mining conditions, difficulties in obtaining environment clearance, restrictions arising out of imposition of Central Environmental Pollution Index guidelines and non-availability of forest clearances in time. Law and order condition in some areas and lack of adequate infrastructure for evacuation of coal including delay in construction of rail Infrastructure have also been constraining factor in some major coalfields.

(d) The focus of the Government is to increase coal production to the extent possible by facilitating Environment and Forest clearances expeditiously, pursuing with State Government for assistance in land acquisition and coordinated efforts with Railways for movement of coal.

Physical verification of CIL's lands

†1937. SHRI HARIVANSH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any physical verification of land belonging to Coal India Ltd. has been carried out through a survey;

(b) if so, by when and by whom; and

(c) if not, the programme for its physical verification and by when it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Coal production

1938. SHRIMATI JHARNA DAS BAIDYA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is of the view that environment and forest clearances and land acquisitions are two major concern which hamper the coal production in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to tackle these issues; and

(c) the details of outcome thereof, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Environmental Clearance (EC), Forest Clearance (FC) and Land acquisition for Coal Mining projects is a continuous process and involves prescribed procedures. Sometimes they get delayed due to various reasons.

(b) These issues are addressed, discussed and deliberated at length at appropriate level, that are, District and State level as well as at the level of Central Government, particularly at the level of Ministry of Environment Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) to expedite the process of requisite clearances. Ministry of Coal (MoC) along with Subsidiary Companies and CIL has taken these issues on top most

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.