

(b) whether Government is considering any scheme to provide incentives for the owners of old vehicles to purchase new and more fuel-efficient vehicles; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI RADHAKRISHNAN P.): (a) The National Green Tribunal (NGT) *vide* its order dated 26-11-2014 has banned all vehicles that are more than 15 years of age to ply in NCT of Delhi and *vide* its order dated 07-04-2015 banned all diesel vehicles that are more than 10 years of age to ply in NCT of Delhi. In compliance of the Hon'ble NGT orders, plying of 15 years old petrol driven vehicles and 10 years old diesel driven vehicles have been banned by the Delhi Government. Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has filed an application in the NGT for stay of operation of the orders dated 26.11.2014 and 07.04.2015 and give reasonable time of 6 months for suggesting measures for addressing pollution concerns. NGT has asked Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, NCT of Delhi to submit within two weeks views on various states aspects.

(b) and (c) No Sir, There is no such proposal to provide incentives for the owners of old vehicles to purchase new vehicles.

Amendment in Land Acquisition Act for housing

* 157. SHRI RANGASAYEE RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Land Acquisition Act would be suitably amended to provide for temporary acquisition for facilitating *in situ* redevelopment of housing, benefiting the person from whom the land is acquired?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): No Sir. There is no such proposal.

Auction of coal

*158. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the response of the big industry towards coal auctions undertaken by Government;

(b) whether Government has seen the reports that aggressive bidding has left some big companies out of the race;

(c) if so, the steps planned to check cartelization; and

(d) the response of Government to the strictures passed by the Delhi High Court on the way the auctions are conducted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) Auction of Coal Blocks have been successful and appreciated by and large by the industry.

(b) and (c) As per the Tender Document, each Bidder was required to conduct its own investigations and analysis and to check the accuracy, adequacy, correctness, reliability and completeness of the assumptions, assessments, statements and information contained in the Tender Document and obtain independent advice from appropriate sources. In an open auction, bidders are free to bid as per their own assessment of the mines put on auction as well as their financial capability. It is not correct to say that aggressive bidding has left some big companies out of race as a large number of successful bidders are well known big companies.

(d) No strictures have been passed by the Hon'ble Delhi High Court regarding auction methodology. Rather, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi in its Order dated 18.2.2015 in W.P (C) No. 1384 of 2015 (M/s Sarda Energy and Minerals Ltd. vs. UOI & Ors.) appreciated the auction process and *inter alia* observed "What has convinced us is the fact that the auction process has worked out well ... the process by itself does not appear to us, to be arbitrary or irrational. There is, of course, no allegation that the auction process is designed to favour any particular bidder".

Performance of social audit units under MGNREGA

*159. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has reviewed the performance of social audit units which were assigned the responsibility to report on misappropriation of funds meant for rural job scheme the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA);

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether Government has issued fresh directives to the States calling for a overhaul of the said units;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) the reaction of the State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the Audit of Scheme Rules 2011