

- x. Prof. Sacchidananda Sahai, National Professor in Epigraphy, Apartment P-2, Flat No. B-17, Princeton, DLF Phase I, Gurgaon-122009, Haryana.
 - xi. Prof. P.T. Haridas, former Head of the P.G. Department of History, Malabar Christian College, Calicut, Kerala.
 - xii. Prof. Narayan Rao, Prof. of History, Berhampur University, Berhampur -760007 Odisha.
 - xiii. Prof. Baidyanath Labh, Head of Department, Buddhist Studies, University of Jammu, Directorate of Distance Education, University of Jammu, Jammu -180001, Jammu & Kashmir.
 - xiv. Prof. R.S. Agrawal, former Prof. of History & Dean Faculty of Art, B-148, Pocket-B, SFS. Sheikh Sarai, Phase-I, New Delhi-110017.
 - xv. Prof. Nikhilesh Guha, former Prof. & HoD University of Kalyani, Block-C, Kalyani - 741245, West Bengal.
 - xvi. Prof. Ishwar Sharan Vishwakarma, Prof. Department of Ancient History, Archaeology & Culture, 27-D, Hirapur, University Campus, Gorakhpur University, 273009, Uttar Pradesh.
 - xvii. Prof. Rahman Ali, Prof. & Head, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Vikram University, Kothi Road, Ujjain-456010, Madhya Pradesh.
 - xviii. Prof. K. Ratnam, Professor of History, Maharana Laxmi Bai Government Institute of Excellence, 7, Sapna Mansion, Govindpuri, University Road, Gwalior - 474011, Madhya Pradesh.
- III. Representative of the University Grants Commission, New Delhi.
- IV. The Director General, National Archives of India, Janpath, New Delhi-110001.
- V. The Director General, Archaeological Survey of India, Janpath, New Delhi-110001.
- VI. The names of the four persons to represent Government of India will be issued subsequently.
- VII. Member Secretary, Indian Council of Historical Research, 35, Firoz Shah Road, New Delhi-110001.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Protection of environment and workers' safety in mining areas

271. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any specific provision in the Coal Mines Development and Production Agreement (CMDPA) to ensure protection of environment and workers' safety in and around mining areas;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL) : (a) to (c) As per the Coal Mine Development and Production Agreement (CMDPA), the successful bidder is required to comply with all applicable laws including laws for protection of environment and workers' safety. CMDPA specifically provides that the successful bidder shall observe good industry practice for the protection of the general health, safety, welfare, social security and minimum wages of employees engaged at the coal mine, including employees of any contractor or sub-contractor and of all other persons having legal access to the area covered by this Agreement.

Utilization of land of closed coal mines

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

- (a) whether Government is contemplating to enact a law so that the land of closed coal mines may be handed over to the State Governments for utilization after reclaiming and making them cultivable;
- (b) whether this will put a check on illegal mining and it would make the proper productive use of such land ; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL) : (a) Government has examined the issue of amending Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957 to return the mined out land and the land acquired but found to be in excess of actual requirement or the acquired land is no longer required by the coal companies, to the State Government for utilisation after reclaiming them. However, considering our efforts towards providing clean and green energy we are also considering setting up solar energy plants on such lands.

(b) and (c) Protecting such land against encroachment and maintenance of the same often involves unnecessary expenditure on the part of the coal companies. As such, if such land is returned to the State Governments concerned, which are the custodian of all land situated within their jurisdiction, they can then decide on the appropriate utilisation of such land viz., afforestation, public utility services, renewable energy projects etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.