

the Ministry of Coal on 27th August, 2009. Thereafter certain modifications were made and accordingly, further guidelines were issued in this regard on 08.09.2009, 11.01.2012, 25.04.2012 and 07.01.2013.

Mine Closure Plan is an integral part of Mining Plan and is mandatory under the provisions of MMDR Act and Mineral Concession Rules. The mine owners are responsible for implementing Mine Closure Plans as per the approved Mining Plans. The guidelines issued by Ministry of Coal in August, 2009 were mainly aimed at binding the mine owners financially to commit the completion of various activities of Mine Closure Plans through opening an Escrow Account with Coal Controller's Organisation (CCO).

Short term coal linkages

275. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is again planning to introduce the system of short term coal linkages in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a panel has also been made to look into the coal linkages to be provided; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) has been constituted in the Ministry of Coal on 12.01.2015 to consider various models including auctioning of coal linkages/Letter of Assurances (LOAs) through competitive bidding as the selection process and to recommend the optimal structure that would meet the requirements of all the stakeholders.

Cancellation of biddings of coal blocks in Chhattisgarh

276. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has cancelled the four coal blocks whose bids were rejected include Gare IV/2, Gare Palma IV/3 and Tara coal blocks in Chhattisgarh in