

appropriate laws and by adequate and efficient measures using precautionary approach, with active participation of Community Based Institutions.

- (7) It proposes conformance to the Service Level Benchmarks for water supply, sanitation, solid waste management and storm water drainage, as may be prescribed.
- (8) It proposes that Industries either withdraw only the make up water or have an obligation to return treated effluent to a specified standard back to the hydrologic system and to file annual 'Water returns'.
- (9) It proposes that the appropriate Government take all possible measures to synergise and integrate different development schemes including schemes for water conservation, sanitation and improvement of water quality at Panchayat or Municipality level, as the case may be, and further at sub basin and basin level.
- (10) It proposes that a High Powered Committee be set up at the Centre and in each State for coordination and policy support mechanism between different agencies dealing with water etc.

#### **Commercialisation of coal mining**

\*4. DR. PRADEEP KUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is planning to commercialise coal mining and invite private firms and auction coal blocks to them, with a view to have transparent mining and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that private firms are not coming forward to participate in auctioning of coal mines and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the incentives being offered by Government to attract the private firms to participate in coal mining?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):

(a) Enabling provisions have been made in the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the Mines and Mineral (Development & Regulations) Act, 1957 for allocation of coal mines/blocks by way of auction and allotment *inter alia* for sale of coal. However, guidelines have still not been worked out for commercial coal mining by private firms.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Government has successfully auctioned 31 coal mines in three tranches to the regulated as well as non-regulated sector under the provisions

of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the Rules made thereunder. However, the fourth tranche of coal blocks auctions for the non-regulated sector was cancelled in view of the prevalent market conditions which included sharp decline in e-auction price of coal from Coal India Limited as well as in the international FOB price of non-coking coal among other factors.

#### **Identifying borewells in drought affected States**

\*5. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI) team has been rushed to Latur in Maharashtra which is facing the worst water crisis after three years of consecutive drought to identify borewell sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Ministry would direct NGRI to conduct similar surveys in drought affected States like Telangana, Bundelkhand in U.P. and other affected States to identify sources of borewells to mitigate water crisis; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A team from National Geophysical Research Institute (NGRI), under the Department of Science & Technology (DST) reached Latur on 12th April, 2016 to carry out geophysical investigations to locate potential deeper fractures, as shallow zones have dried up. Based on the geophysical survey on the sites provided by the State Government so far 3 sites have been identified for drilling of bore-wells and have been provided to the Groundwater Survey and Development Agency, Government of Maharashtra.

The rainfall deficit in Marathwada Region, for the year 2015, ranges from 18.91% to 49.68%, with 43.71% deficit in the Latur district. The cultivation of water intensive/commercial crops further affected the precarious water situation in the area. During the year 2015 the State has declared a drought in 21 districts.

The Central Government has released ₹ 2548.73 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund for the State of Maharashtra to combat drought in the State for 2015-16. In addition, Central Government has released ₹ 1112.25 crore during 2015-16 and ₹ 583.87 crore as first instalment for 2016-17 as Central Share in the State Disaster Response Fund.