

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Royalty Rate on Coal**

2081. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware that the rate of royalty for coal has remained unchanged for four years;
- (b) if so, whether the Ministry is planning to change the rate of royalty for coal and Clean Environment Cess; and
- (c) whether the study group constituted by the Ministry in 2014 to consider the revision of the rates has submitted its report?

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

(a) to (c) The proviso to Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 prevents the Central Government from enhancing the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years. The rates of royalty were last revised w.e.f. 10.05.2012. The Study Group, constituted in 2014 to consider the revision of rates of royalty on coal and lignite, has submitted its report in the month of May, 2016.

There is no proposal under consideration of the Government at present to alter the rate of Clean Environment Cess.

Allocation of coal mines to private sector

†2082. SHRI RAM VICHAR NETAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of coal mines which have been given to the private sector in our country following the directive of Supreme Court;
- (b) if so, the terms and conditions under which they have been handed over to the private sector; and
- (c) whether these companies are strictly complying with the terms and conditions and if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Hon'ble Supreme Court of India had cancelled the allocation of 204 coal mines. The allocation of these 204 coal mines are made under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the Rules made thereunder. So far, 31 coal mines have

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

been allocated by way of auction to the regulated as well as non-regulated sector under the said Act, out of which 30 have been allocated to the private sector companies.

(b) and (c) Terms and conditions for the development of the coal mines have been prescribed in the Coal Mines Development and Production Agreement (CMDPA) / executed with the allottee companies. In accordance with the provisions of sub-section (6) of Section 8 of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and Rule-13 (4) (ii) of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Rules, 2014, performance bank guarantee by the successful bidder is linked with the milestones for the development of the coal mine. A monitoring mechanism for the development of the coal mines in accordance with the efficiency parameters specified in the CMDPA is in place. Failure by the allottee companies in adhering to the terms and conditions / efficiency parameters for the development of the coal mines results in measures as stipulated in the agreement by the Nominated Authority which includes appropriation of the performance bank guarantee and cancellation of the Vesting Order. Moreover, mining lease and mining plan are statutory documents incorporating various duties and responsibilities violation of which attracts punishment / penalties. In cases, where violation of the terms and conditions has been observed, show cause notices have been issued. So far, 12 show cause notices have been issued to the private sector allottee companies of the auctioned coal mines for non-compliance of milestones as specified in Schedule E of their respective CMDPAs.

Closure of mines under MCP

2083. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of challenges being faced by coal mines across the country when they intend to close the mines under the Mine Closure Plan (MCP); and

(b) the details of scientific and eco-friendly approach/methods adopted by coal mining companies under MCP?

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

(a) As per the Mine Closure Plan (MCP) guidelines, the mined out area is to be restored to an acceptable level to create a sustained ecosystem. In this regard, water bodies created in mine voids are allowed for use of the community instead of the complete filling up of worked out void. However, due to typical geo-mining conditions (i.e. High stripping ratio, Steep seams, Existence of multiple coal seams and potentiality of future extension) in Coal India Limited's (CIL) mines, the complete filling up of the void is difficult. No such challenges are faced by NLC India Limited (NLCIL) in this regard.