

**Allocation of Palma and Tara coal blocks**

†2144. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the allocation of Gare Palma and Tara coal blocks in Chhattisgarh is under consideration of the High Court; and

(b) whether Central Government would help the State by requesting the early disposal of the court case as the State Government is unable to get either the amount back or the royalty because of non-allocation of coal blocks?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Jindal Power Ltd. (JPL) had filed W.P. (C) No. 3001/2015 and W.P. (C) No. 3002/2015 before Hon'ble High Court of Delhi challenging Order dated 20.03.2015 of the Ministry of Coal, whereby, JPL was informed that it has not been declared as the Successful Bidder in respect of Gare Palma IV/2 & IV/3 and Tara coal mines. The ground for not declaring JPL as the Successful Bidder for the said coal mines was that the bid of JPL, which was the Preferred Bidder in the auction, was not found to be reflecting fair value. *Vide* common judgment dated 09.03.2017 Hon'ble High Court of Delhi has upheld the decision of Ministry of Coal and dismissed the petitions. The Hon'ble High Court further directed the Government to take a decision as to whether the Gare Palma IV/2 85 IV/3 coal mines should be put to re-auction or be allotted to Coal India Limited or any other public sector corporation. However, JPL has preferred SLP Nos. 10240-10241/ 2017 before Hon'ble Supreme Court of India against the above common judgment of Hon'ble High Court. On 07.04.17 the Hon'ble Supreme Court has directed to maintain *status quo* in the matter in respect of both the mines. The matter is *sub judice* before Hon'ble Supreme Court.

**Welfare scheme for SC/ST employees**

2145. SHRI VINAY DINU TENDULKAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any welfare scheme for SC/ST employees working under the Ministry, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government has considered to regularize casual workers working in the Ministry; and

(c) the number of employees regularized during the last two years?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The guidelines of the Government of India pertaining to welfare of SC/ST employees is also followed by Ministry of Coal.

- (b) Ministry of Coal does not engage any casual workers.
- (c) Does not arise.

**Allocation of coal mines for commercial mining**

2146. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM:

SHRI T. RATHINAVEL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a panel of the Government may soon decide on the methodology for allocation of coal mines for commercial mining, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that a discussion paper on the modalities for allocation of coal mines through auction route was earlier placed in the public domain for comments; and
- (c) if so, the general views of the public in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) Enabling provisions have been made in the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 for allocation of coal mines by way of auction and allotment for the sale of coal. The methodology for allotment of coal mines under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 to Central / State Public Sector Undertakings for sale of coal has been approved by the Government.

Further, to prepare the modalities for allocation of coal mines through auction for sale of coal by private companies, a discussion paper on auction of coal mines for commercial mining was prepared for seeking comments of public and stakeholders concerned and was placed in the public domain. The views of the public are largely related to the proposed eligibility conditions, auction methodology, basis of calculating revenue sharing, land acquisition etc. and general observations which *inter alia* included market scenario, existing legal regimes in the country's coal market, pricing, upfront payment as well as suggestions as a way forward. The methodology for auction of coal mines / blocks for sale of coal under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 is under consideration of the Government.