

foundation stone has been laid to build an eco-park in Chhindwara district by Western Coalfields Limited (WCL).

(b) Foundation stone was laid on 31.08.2015 near Newton Township near Dispensary premises of Pench Area under WCL in Chhindwara District.

(c) Suitable site is being explored for better location of the park. After approval of the estimate with suitable location of the Park, the work shall be tendered and awarded.

Opening of new mines in Chhindwara

†4. SHRI AJAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has announced the opening of six new mines in the district of Chhindwara under South Eastern Coal-fields Limited;

(b) if so, the time-line fixed for the opening of these mines; and

(c) the reasons for not opening these mines till now?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) Chhindwara district is not under the command area of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL). However, opening of six new mines namely Sharada UG, Dhankasa UG, Tawa-III UG, Vishnupuri UG to OC, Narayani Expn. OC and Gandhigram UG mines in the districts of Chhindwara under Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) has been planned.

(b) and (c) These mines could not be opened due to various pending clearances such as land acquisition and forest clearance. Once clearances are accorded, these mines will be opened.

Collection and utilisation of coal cess

5. SHRI BINOY VISWAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) details of coal cess collected in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) details of money allocated, released and utilised from the funds received through coal cess during the last three years, State-wise?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.