

4. This issues with the approval of DGFT.

(Daya Shankar)

Deputy Director General of Foreign Trade

E-mail: daya.shankar@nic.in

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Status of coal blocks

776. SHRI Y.S. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of coal blocks allocated to captive coal mines or otherwise during the last three years;
- (b) the details of coal blocks not developed, within the stipulated period, company-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether Government has revoked the licences of coal blocks not developed by the allocated companies within the stipulated period during the last three years; and
- (d) the steps/measures taken by Government against the defaulting companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) A total of 41 coal blocks have been allocated to various private and public companies under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 during the last three years, out of which 3 coal blocks have been de-allocated.

(b) to (d) Development of coal blocks involves a gestation period of 3 to 7 years for reaching the production stage and another two to three years for reaching the optimal production capacity. As per the guidelines, coal production from a captive coal block should commence within 36 months (42 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of open cast mines and in 48 months (54 months in case the area falls in forest land) in case of underground mine, from the date of allocation. If a coal block is not explored, additional two years are allowed for detailed exploration and three months for preparation of geological report. The companies who have been allocated coal blocks during the last three years are in various stages of obtaining statutory clearances and mining lease, preparing mining plan, acquisition of land, procuring machinery and equipment etc. for both mining as well as end-use project.

The responsibility of developing the coal block as per the prescribed guidelines and milestones rests entirely with the allocatee company. In the terms and conditions of the

allocation letters, it is categorically mentioned that in the event of willful delay in the development of coal blocks and in setting up of the end use project, the Government, would take appropriate action to de-allocate the said block. Government periodically monitors and reviews the development of allocated blocks as well as end use plants by the allocatee companies in the review meetings. Wherever delays are noticed, Government issues show cause notices and advisories to such allocatees cautioning them to bring the coal blocks into production as per the guidelines/milestones chart. The Coal Controller's office also monitors on regular basis the achievement of different milestones. Based on the recommendations made by the Review Committees from time to time, the Central Government has de-allocated 24 coal blocks till date.

Activities of CMPFO

777. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) why is the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO) has stopped operations by SAP who had installed software for its operations and reverted to manual operations for its 7.5 lakh coal miners for their provident fund, gratuity and pension benefits;

(b) how many coal miners have not got their dues when they retired, fallen ill or needed their provident fund for education of their children or marriage etc. during the last three years;

(c) why the quarterly meeting of CMPFO is not held regularly;

(d) why CMPFO is indulged in gross irregularities; and

(e) by when Government proposes to rectify and regularize the activities of this organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Commissioner, Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization (CMPFO) has reported that the arrangement with M/s SAP was terminated by him mainly on account of very high monthly support and maintenance cost paid to M/s SAP which was approximately Rs. 9.36 lakhs per month. A new in-house developed 'CMPFO-OSS (Online Settlement Solution)' software has been launched from 1st May, 2009 which is working in all 24 jurisdictional offices of CMPFO.

(b) Details of different claims settled and pendency thereof during last three years in favour of Coal Mines Provident Fund (CMPF) subscribers are as under:

(i) Provident Fund Refund Claims Settlement during the last three years are as under