

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) The Government periodically monitors and reviews the development of allocated blocks as well as end use plants by the allocatee companies in the Review Meetings. Further, an Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Coal) with representatives from the Ministries of Power, Steel, Law & Justice and Departments of Economic Affairs and Industrial Policy and Promotion has been constituted on 21.06.2012 which *inter-alia* would undertake periodic review and monitor the progress of allocated coal/lignite blocks and make recommendations on action to be taken including de-allocation, if required. Based on the recommendation, the Government takes action from time to time as deemed fit.

(c) and (d) In a W.P. (Criminal) No. 120 of 2012, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has given order on 14.09.2012 directing Secretary, Ministry of Coal to submit counter-affidavit on the following aspects:

- (i) The details of guidelines framed by the Central Government for allocation of subject coal blocks.
- (ii) The process adopted for allocation of subject coal blocks.
- (iii) Whether the guidelines contain inbuilt mechanism to ensure that allocation does not lead to distribution of largesse unfairly in the hands of few private companies?
- (iv) Whether the guidelines strictly followed and objectives of the policy have been realized?
- (v) What were the reasons for not following the policy of competitive bidding adopted by the Government of India way back in 2004 for allocation of coal blocks?
- (vi.) What steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken against the allottees who have not adhered to the terms of allotment or breached the terms thereof?

Government will be filing an affidavit on the above issues.

#### **Allocation of coal blocks and coal linkage**

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the projects being executed by the Central Sector/State Sector PSUs attract priority in the matter of Coal Blocks/Coal linkages allocation/allotment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) still enjoys the status of the Public Sector Undertaking;

(d) whether the Government has allocated any coal block to BALCO on the basis of the Public Sector Undertaking resulting in loss to Government exchequer in crores;

(e) if so, the action taken/being taken by Government against the erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Coal blocks are separately earmarked for allocation to eligible Central Sector/State Sector PSUs under Government company dispensation route. Under this process the list of blocks identified is circulated to all the Central Ministries/State Governments. Applications are invited from the State Governments/Central Government for Government Companies. Under this route, only Government Companies are allocated coal blocks both for specified end use and for commercial mining where there is no restriction of captive use.

Standing Linkage Committee (Long-Term) recommends for issuance of "Letter of Assurance" (LoA) based on the recommendations of Ministry of Power and taking into account other relevant factors. No priority is given to the projects being executed by the Central Sector/State Sector PSUs for grant of Letter of Assurance for coal allocation.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Bharat Aluminium Company Ltd. (BALCO) has been disinvested on 2nd March 2001 along with management control in favour of a Strategic Partner (SP) namely M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd. As such, BALCO is no longer a Government Company.

(e) Does not arise in view of the answer given in parts (c) and (d) above.

### **Import of coal**

328. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state: