

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Coal India Ltd. (CIL) has sought permission to import coal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that power companies are not ready to purchase coal from CIL;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) No, Sir. Import of coal is presently under Open General License (OGL). Therefore no permission is required to import coal by any organization including CIL.

- (b) Question does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Question does not arise.
- (e) The supply of imported coal is now an integral part under the modified FSA models. The power projects which do not choose to get imported coal on cost plus basis from CIL would be free to meet the shortfall between the indigenous coal supplied by CIL and their requirement from other available sources including imports.

Selling of coal blocks and coal linkage

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

- (a) whether the power sector is being given priority in allotment of coal linkage and coal blocks across the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has received any complaints against the power companies for selling coal blocks/linkage to some foreign power companies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Government has put in place any regulation in order to prevent misuse of coal blocks/linkage; and

(f) if so, the details thereof, and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Identified coal blocks are earmarked end-usewise and dispensation-wise based on grade of coal and reserves available in the block for allocation under various dispensation routes.

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) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer given to part (c).

(e) and (f) The use of coal is permitted as per the terms and conditions of the allocation letter in case of coal blocks and the provisions of Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) which is signed between the Coal Company and the consumes in case of linkages.

Strengthening of initiatives on market intervention

330. SHRIMATI VASANTHI STANLEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted any committee to strengthen the initiatives on market intervention and to eliminate hoarding of commodities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution has not constituted any committee to strengthen the initiatives on market intervention and to eliminate hoarding of commodities. However, the Department of Agriculture is implementing the Market Intervention Schemes (MIS) for procurement of horticultural and agricultural commodities which are generally perishable in nature and not covered under Price Support Scheme (PSS) to provide remunerative prices to the growers and protect