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Title: Demand to cancel the auction of four coal blocks-Kalyan Khari block, Koyagudem block, Sathu palli block and Shraavanapalli block and allocate it to the Singareni Collieries Company Limited.

**SHRI UTTAM KUMAR REDDY (NALGONDA):** Sir, through you, I wish to bring a matter of urgent public importance to the notice of the Government. The people of Telangana are strongly objecting to the auction of four coal blocks - Kalyan Khani block, Koyagudem block, Sathupalli block and Shraavanapalli block. These coal blocks are co-located with an existing public sector undertaking, Singareni Collieries Company, which is a 100-year-old public sector undertaking, and the oldest coal mining public sector undertaking in the country.

It has had continuous profits for twenty years. In a very bizarre decision, instead of allocating these coal blocks to the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, which is a public sector company, the Coal Ministry has gone for an auction, and 50,000 workers of the Singareni Collieries Company Limited are on strike right now causing a loss of Rs. 120 crore per day.

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited currently needs to supply the coal required by thermal power stations in Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. Instead of allocating these coal blocks to the Singareni Collieries Company Limited, the Coal Ministry is putting it up for auction which is an irrational and an objectionable decision. We demand that the auction of these four coal

blocks be cancelled and be allocated to the Singareni Collieries Company Limited.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON :** Mr. Reddy, you have changed your subject. आप इसके बारे में थोड़ा पहले बताते, तो अच्छा रहता ।

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI):** Sir, I would like to clarify the matter. Whenever the auction regime has begun in the past, whatever has happened during the UPA regime, as far as allocation of coal is concerned, it is all well known to everyone, and subsequently, what the hon. Supreme Court has said regarding this is also known.

The auction has now begun. Even if the allocation to the States was done before, we are not doing it now. We are not opting for an allocation route. And even if it is allocated, the process of issuing notice for inviting applications is done. We are not doing it arbitrarily. Whatever strike is going on, it is unfortunately State sponsored. Instead of speaking to the Minister concerned, or the officer concerned, they have gone on strike. They should come and speak. This State-sponsored strike or *bandh* is neither in the good interest of the nation nor in the good interest of SECL. Whatever statement he has made, it is not based on the facts. It is far from the facts. ... (*Interruptions*)

