

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2875
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010
RETURN OF VACANT LAND
Ju Dev Shri Dilip Singh

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the area of land lying vacant after the full utilization of the land acquired by South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) as on 31.3.2010;
- (b) the area of land, out of the said land, acquired from farmers and the forest department;
- (c) the reasons for keeping the land vacant by the two companies; and
- (d) the details of the action taken under the policies and provisions for returning the land to the concerned agencies/individuals or for alternate meaningful use of this land?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

- (a) & (b): Coal India Limited has informed that land has been acquired as per the requirement of its subsidiaries for the mining projects. However, 224.21 hectares and 85.11 hectares of mined out land belonging to SECL and MCL respectively are now vacant. Out of 224.21 hectares in SECL, land acquired from Government is 33.53 hectares and out of 85.11 hectares in MCL land acquired from Government is 83.49 hectares. Remaining land of 190.68 hectares and 1.62 hectares is tenancy land.
- (c) & (d): The Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition & Development) Act, 1957 under which most of the land is acquired, is silent regarding return of mined out/vacant land. In view of this, Government is in the process of framing a policy for return of such land in consultation with Ministry of Law.