

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4343
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2014
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
Mohan Shri P. C.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received Ashok Chawla committee report on allocation of natural resources;
- (b) if so, the details of recommendations accepted and status of implementation point-wise;
- (c) whether the committee recommended for great public disclosure relating to petroleum and gas sectors and if so, the details of the documents to be placed in public domain;
- (d) whether the committee has recommended public auction for coal mines; and
- (e) if so, whether the Supreme Court guidelines for allocation of natural resources have been taken into consideration by the Government?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE (SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) & (b): The Ashok Chawla Committee on Allocation of Natural Resources (CANR) submitted its Report on 31st May 2011, gave 81 recommendations covering eight natural resources viz. mineral, coal, petroleum, natural gas, spectrum, land, water and forest. Of these, the Group of Ministers has accepted 69 recommendations and further action on these recommendations is to be pursued by the individual Ministries concerned in a timely manner. A Monitoring Mechanism has also been set up under the Cabinet Secretary to monitor the implementation of the accepted recommendations.

(c): The Chawla Committee on Allocation of Natural Resources recommended more public disclosure of issues relating to investment audit and exploration commitments in the Petroleum Sector. The Committee also, inter alia, recommended that there should be greater disclosure of existing approval processes, such as the meeting of the Management Committee (MC), documents approved by the MC and reasons thereof in the public domain.

(d): The CANR has recommended several methods of allocation of different natural resources, including the use of market-linked processes, which in some cases includes auction as the preferred mode. On Coal, the Committee has recommended improving the regularity of the quantity and predictability of location of e-auction coal to allow development of associated logistics and allowing independent mining firms to take part in auctions for captive blocks, with suitably notified groups of end user firms.

(e): Yes, Sir; wherever applicable.