

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title : Alleged auction of 4 Coal Blocks in Telangana

*m01 Shri Uttam Kumar Reddy (Nalgonda): Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I wish to bring a matter of urgent public importance to the notice of Government of India. The people of Telangana are strongly objecting to the auction of four coal blocks, namely, Kalyankhani block, Koyagudem block, Sathupalli block and Shraavanapalli block.

These coal blocks are co-located with an existing public sector undertaking, Singareni Collieries, which is a 100-year-old public sector coal mining company. It is a profit-making public sector mining company. It has made continuous profits for twenty years. In a very irrational and bizarre decision, that the Government of India has announced auction of the coal blocks adjacent to the Singareni mines/coal blocks.

The Singareni Collieries Company Limited currently supplies coal to the 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 Ministry of Coal is putting them up for auction which is an irrational and objectionable decision. We demand that the auction of these four coal blocks be cancelled and be allocated to the public sector undertaking, Singareni Collieries Company Limited.

Sir, I would also bring to the notice of the Government that the hon. Prime Minister, during his visit to Telangana last month, had promised that they would not be privatised but still, the Government of India is going ahead with the privatisation of coal blocks in Telangana.

Sir, Shri Pralhad Joshi has come now. In the last Session, he has replied that it was a Government decision. There is no logic to it.

*m02 **THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI):** Sir, whatever the hon. Member from Telangana has alleged is virtually and factually wrong. The auction process is going on for the last two to two-and-a-half years and it is the most transparent system which we have adopted.

So far, nobody has alleged anything against the transparent system of auction. This is also beneficial to the State. If the State Government wants, they can participate in it and there are many States which are not ruled by the Bhartiya Janata Party (*Interruptions*)

*m03 **SHRI UTTAM KUMAR REDDY:** The hon. Prime Minister has announced in a public meeting in Telangana that there would be no privatisation of coal mines.

*m04 **माननीय अध्यक्ष :** मंत्री जी, आप बोलिए।

*m05 **SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** Sir, first of all, I would like to tell about the auction process. Whatever is happening is happening through a transparent auction method.

As far as privatisation is concerned, 51 per cent is with Telangana Government and 49 per cent is with us. How can we privatise it then?

*m06 **SHRI UTTAM KUMAR REDDY (NALGONDA):** It is the coal blocks of the company which is a public sector company.

*m07 **SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** It is not the question of allocating the coal blocks. Everybody has to participate in the auction. This is the system which we have adopted now. I would also like to tell you that in many other States also, like Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand, auction is going on. Those Governments are cooperating with us. There is no problem with them. The entire revenue acquired through auction goes to the State Government. The people who are in the coal scam are talking all these things.

*m08 **माननीय अध्यक्ष :** माननीय सदस्य की समस्या है कि राज्य को 51 प्रतिशत क्यों दे रहे हैं ।

*m09 **श्री प्रहलाद जोशी :** महोदय, जिन लोगों ने करोड़ों-करोड़ रुपये के कोल स्कैम्स किए थे, वे लोग यह ट्रांसपैरेंट सिस्टम नहीं चाहते हैं ।