

Bill No. 103 of 2023

THE COAL BEARING AREAS (ACQUISITION AND
DEVELOPMENT) AMENDMENT BILL, 2023

By

DR. GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON, M.P.

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BILL

further to amend the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-fourth Year of the Republic of India as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Amendment Act, 2023.

Short title and commencement.

5 (2) It shall come into force on such date, as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Insertion of new section 4A.

2. After section 4 of the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957, 20 of 1957. the following new section shall be inserted, namely:—

Exclusion of Vadaseri and East Sethiathope lignite blocks and Michaelpatti in the State of Tamil Nadu from operation of coal mining.

“4A. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 4 of the Act, the Central Government shall, as soon as may be, by issuing a notification, exclude coal mining activities in,—

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(i) Vadaseri and East Sethiathope lignite blocks which fall in the zone protected under the Tamil Nadu Protected Agriculture Zone Development Act, 2020; and

(ii) Michaelpatti which falls in a major paddy growing area adjoining a very fertile part of the Cauvery delta.”.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

The Vadaseri and East of Sethiathope lignite blocks all in the zone protected under the Tamil Nadu Protected Agriculture Zone Development Act, 2020 and Michaelpatti falls in a major paddy growing area adjoining a very fertile part of the Cauvery delta. The Government's unilateral move to auction three coal blocks in above areas had the potential to cause considerable disquiet in the delta, the main food producing area in the State of Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Protected Agriculture Zone Development Act, 2020, prevents the exploitation of coal bed methane.

Hence this Bill.

NEW DELHI;
July 4, 2023.

GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON

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further to amend the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957

(Dr. Gautham Sigamani Pon, M.P.)