

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 07.03.2011
ANSWERED ON
REOPENING OF CLOSED COAL PROJECTS .

150

SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether closed coal projects have been reconsidered in the meeting of Group of Ministers;
- (b) if so, the projects which have been cleared and the States where these are located; and
- (c) the reasons for not clearing the other projects ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF COAL

(SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in parts (a) to (c) of the reply to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 150 for 07.03.2011

(a) to (c): Ministry of Coal had moved a note for the consideration of the Cabinet Committee on Infrastructure (CCI) on the need for making available more coal bearing areas for enhancing coal production in view of the situation arising out of the stand taken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) consequent to categorizing the forest areas into "Go" and "No-Go" areas and also the issue of embargo on projects in areas with a high Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI) score. While considering the above note, CCI in its meeting held on 13.01.2011 directed that all pertinent issues may in the first instance be considered by Group of Ministers (GoM). Further it had directed that the GoM will consider all issues relating to reconciliation of environmental concerns emanating from various developmental activities including those related to infrastructure and mining, and finalize its recommendations within two months, including the following:

- i) The efficacy and legality of existing forest clearance norms and procedures being followed.
 - ii) Environment clearance in respect of projects located in areas with high comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index; and
- (ii) The steps to be taken to ensure that better quality forests are regenerated in a time-bound manner after mining operations get over.

The first meeting of the GoM was held on 17.02.2011 and the GoM has not finalized its recommendations.