

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 86
ANSWERED ON- 08/12/2025

PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN COMMERCIAL COAL MINING

*86. SHRI PRADIP KUMAR VARMA:

Will the Minister of *COAL* be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of coal blocks auctioned so far under the Commercial Coal Mining Policy launched in the year 2020;
- (b) whether it is a fact that both production capacity and employment opportunities have increased significantly due to participation of private sector, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has established any special monitoring mechanism to ensure transparency and environmental compliance in these blocks; and
- (d) the number of new blocks that are proposed for auction in the future the detail thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COAL & MINES

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) IN RESPECT OF RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 86 FOR REPLY ON 08.12.2025 REGARDING PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE SECTOR IN COMMERCIAL COAL MINING ASKED BY SHRI PRADIP KUMAR VARMA.

(a): Since the launch of commercial coal auctions in 2020, a total of 133 coal blocks have been successfully auctioned.

(b): Out of 133 coal blocks, 117 coal blocks have been won by the private sector. The cumulative production capacity of these 117 coal blocks is 205.27 MTPA and these blocks are expected to generate employment opportunities for 2,77,525 people.

(c): Yes, Sir. To ensure transparency and fair competition, auction of coal blocks is held through an online portal of MSTC Limited (A Public Sector Unit under Ministry of Steel, Government of India). The Government has adopted a two-stage auction mechanism wherein no bidder or its affiliate is permitted to participate in the auction of the same coal mine. A level playing field has been provided to both the private and public sectors to promote competition.

Coal mining projects, including those operated by private sector entities, are required to comply with all applicable environmental laws and regulatory frameworks. All the coal mines have been mandated to secure prior Environmental clearance from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)/State Environment Impact Assessment Authority (SEIAA) under the provisions of the EIA Notification, 2006 which mandates a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP). Further, consent is to be obtained from respective State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs). Compliance with environmental stipulations is monitored by the State Pollution Control Boards. The Government has notified the Environment Audit Rules, 2025 to further strengthen the environmental compliance framework for projects operating under various environmental laws, including coal mines.

(d): Identification of coal blocks for commercial auction is a continuous exercise undertaken by the Ministry of Coal prior to the launch of each round of commercial auction. 41 coal mines have been offered in the ongoing 14th round of commercial auction.
