

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-1634**  
ANSWERED ON- 15/12/2025

**REFORMS IN THE COAL SECTOR AND COMMERCIAL MINING**

1634 SHRI ADITYA PRASAD:  
SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA:  
SHRI MADAN RATHORE:  
SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL:

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

- (a) the number of commercial coal mines auctioned till date and operational out of them along with their total current production;
- (b) the major obstacles faced by successful bidders in obtaining approvals, ensuring land availability, and developing evacuation infrastructure and the measures taken by Government to address these issues;
- (c) whether Government is proposing amendments to simplify approval processes and enhance investor participation in forthcoming phases of commercial coal mining; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF COAL & MINES  
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) Since the launch of commercial coal block auctions in 2020, a total of 133 coal blocks have been successfully auctioned till date. Out of these coal blocks, 21 coal blocks are operational and coal production has commenced from 11 blocks. The production from the commercial coal blocks in last financial year (FY25) and current financial year (FY26 till 30.11.2025) is 23.58 MT and 16.01 MT respectively.

(b) Major obstacles faced by successful bidders in operationalising the coal mines and developing the evacuation infrastructure are as under:

- i. Delays in grant and execution of Prospecting Licence(PL) required for commencement of drilling and exploration activity.
- ii. Delays in conduct of Public Hearing required for grant of Environment Clearance.

- iii. Delays in obtaining NOC under FRA, identification and obtaining suitability certificate for compensatory afforestation(CA) land, required for obtaining Forest Clearance.
- iv. Absence of authenticated land records and its digitisation coupled with the issues of litigation in land ownership, which is delaying the acquisition of land and Rehabilitation&Resettlement.
- v. Challenges in possession of land and tree cutting in forest land.

Following measures are being taken by the Central Government to address the obstacles faced by the successful bidders in operationalising the coal mines:

- i. The allocated coal blocks are regularly reviewed and monitored at different levels in Ministry. These meetings are attended by relevant stakeholders, including officials from State Governments and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and coal companies.
- ii. Single Window Clearance has been launched to facilitate online processing for grant of clearances and approvals required for starting a coal mine.
- iii. Project Management Unit (PMU) has been appointed by Ministry for hand holding of coal block allottees for obtaining various approvals / clearances for early operationalisation of coal mines.
- iv. Initiatives are being taken for the development of rail infrastructure for coal evacuation and the same is being reviewed with railway authorities at regular intervals.

(c) & (d) The government is committed towards simplifying and rationalising the approval processes for early operationalisation of the coal mines. Regular discussions are held with the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) towards simplifying the process of grant of Environment clearance and Forest Clearances for coal mining. Central Government vide Gazette notification dated 26 Nov 2025, has notified 18 private prospecting agencies accredited by the Quality Council of India – National Accreditation Board for Education and Training (QCI-NABET), as notified Accredited Prospecting Agencies, under section 4 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. The notification of these exploration agencies will enable the coal blocks allottees to have more flexibility in selecting agencies. Further, Central Government has rationalised the process of approval of Geological Reports.

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