

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-844
ANSWERED ON- 08/12/2025

AUCTION AND COMMERCIAL MINING TRANSPARENCY

844. SMT. MAYA NAROLIYA:
SHRI SHAMBHU SHARAN PATEL:

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

- (a) the manner in which Government is ensuring that there is no compromise in due diligence and technical evaluation despite the very short gap between the 13th and 14th commercial coal auctions;
- (b) the key factors behind the inclusion of underground coal gasification (UCG) in the 14th round of coal mine auctions;
- (c) whether Government has observed any change in the investment pattern or bidder profile in the auctions, especially with regard to the participation of non-mining entities or foreign entities; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF COAL & MINES

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) Due diligence and technical evaluation of bids in each round of commercial coal auctions is undertaken through a structured and time-bound mechanism that remains independent of the gap between successive rounds of commercial auction. For evaluation of bids, the Ministry of Coal constitutes a Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) and bids are evaluated strictly in accordance with the eligibility criteria. The short interval between auction rounds has no bearing on the robustness of technical evaluation or the quality of due diligence.

(b) Provisions related to Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) have been included in the 14th round of commercial coal mine auctions with the objective of harnessing deep-seated coal reserves that are otherwise technically and economically unviable for extraction through conventional mining methods. The technology enables in-situ conversion of coal into synthesis gas, which can be utilised for power generation as well as for producing methanol, ammonia, hydrogen and other chemicals.

(c) & (d) Yes. There has been a notable diversification in the bidder profile since the introduction of commercial coal mining in 2020. The auctions have witnessed participation not only from companies with prior mining experience but also from entities from sectors such as infrastructure, manufacturing, energy and new-age industries, indicating wider

investor interest in the coal mining ecosystem. Many entities without prior coal mining experience have emerged as successful bidders in the commercial coal mine auctions. Further, to participate in the commercial auction of coal mines, a company has to be incorporated under The Companies Act, 2013 or under any previous company law.
