

Government of India
Ministry of Coal
Lok Sabha
Unstarred Question No. 5455
To be answered on 06.04.2017

Commercial Coal Mining by Foreign Companies

5455. DR. BHOLA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has allowed the foreign companies to undertake commercial coal mining in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the foreign companies which have shown interest to undertake commercial coal mining in the country;
- (c) the quantum of coal produced in the country and the quantum of coal imported during the last two years; and
- (d) the extent to which the permission to foreign companies for coal mining is likely to meet the coal demand in various sectors of the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) FOR COAL, POWER, NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINES

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a), (b) & (d): Enabling provisions have been made in the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 for allocation of coal mines by way of auction and allotment for sale of coal. The Act provides that Central Government may, for the purpose of granting mining lease in respect of any area containing coal, select through auction by competitive bidding any Government company or corporation or their joint venture or joint venture between Central Government and State government or any company incorporated in India or a company or joint venture company formed by companies that carry on coal mining operations in India for its own consumption, sale or any other purpose according to permit or license or mining lease and the State Government shall grant such mining lease to company as selected through competitive bidding. The definition of 'company' is the same as given in clause (20) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013.

To prepare the modalities for allocation of coal mines through auction for sale of coal by private companies, a discussion paper containing proposed eligibility conditions and proposed methodology has been prepared in the first instance to consult the stake holders. The discussion paper has been placed in the public domain for a specified period of time to solicit public opinion / comments.

(c): The production and import of raw coal during 2014-15 and 2015-16 is given below:

	<i>In Million Tonnes</i>	
Item	2014-15	2015-16
Production	609.179	639.230
Import	217.783	203.949