

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 2032
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2015**

Cancellation of Coal Blocks

**2032. SHRI KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA:
SHRI ANSHUL VERMA:**

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has cancelled some captive coal blocks in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the action taken/proposed to be taken against these companies;
- (c) the total number of coal mines available in the country and the number of mines auctioned out of the coal blocks that were cancelled by the Supreme Court and the revenue earned therefrom;
- (d) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and other public sector companies have taken part in the auction and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether any policy has been framed to minimise dependence on import of coal so that foreign exchange is saved and if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL AND NEW &
RENEWABLE ENERGY**

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) to (c): Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in its judgment dated 25.08.2014 and order dated 24.09.2014 passed in W.P.(Criminal) No.120 of 2012 and other connected matters declared all allocations of the coal blocks made through Screening Committee and through Government Dispensation route since 1993 illegal and arbitrary and cancelled the allocation of 204 coal blocks out of 218 coal blocks (i.e. except, Tasra coal block allocated to Steel Authority of India Ltd. and Pakri Barwadih coal block allocated to National Thermal Power Corporation and 12 coal blocks allocated for Ultra Mega Power Projects). In case of 42 coal blocks (37 producing and 05 likely to come under production), cancellation had taken effect from 31.03.2015.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered 3 Preliminary Enquiry (PE) cases regarding alleged irregularities in allocation of coal blocks – relating to allocation of coal blocks to private companies during the period 2006-09, relating to allocation of coal blocks to private companies during the period 1993-2004 and relating to allocation of coal blocks to Government companies. In view of the various observations of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in W.P. (Criminal) No.120 of 2012, it would not be possible for the Ministry of Coal to obtain any details from CBI in this regard.

As informed by Coal Controller organization(CCO), there are 506 operating coal mines in India, out of which, Coal India Limited is working in 431 coal mines and Singareni Collieries Company Limited(SCCL) is working in 48 coal mines in the country. So far 31 coal blocks have been auctioned out of the coal blocks that were cancelled by the Supreme Court. The estimated amount of revenue which would accrue to the coal bearing States concerned over the life of mine/lease period from the auction/allotment of coal blocks is Rs.344974 crores.

(d): National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) has not taken part in the auction of coal mines. However, in total, five public sector companies, namely, Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited(RINL), Steel Authority of India Limited(SAIL), Durgapur Projects Limited(DPL), Singareni Collieries Company Limited(SCCL) and West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited(WBPDCL) have taken part in the auction .

(e): As per the current import policy, coal is under Open General Licence(OGI) and consumers are free to import coal from the source of their choice as per their contractual prices on payment of applicable duty. However, the focus of the Government is on increasing coal production to the extent possible by facilitating environment & forest clearance expeditiously, pursuing with State Government for assistance in land acquisition and coordinated efforts with Railways for movement of coal.
