

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL AND MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4190  
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2002  
NEW POLICY FOR COAL MINES  
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

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

- (a) whether the Government have initiated a new policy for coal mines with regard to their closure;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; (
- (c) whether the coal mines have to give a guarantee to the Government to fund their closure activities of coal mines;
- (d) if so, the objective of insisting on such financial guarantees;
- (e) the nature of the financial guarantees required from different mines; and
- (f) the details of this policy to ensure that the environment is protected ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SUSHREE UMA BHARTI)

(a) to (f) : No new policy has been initiated regarding closure of coal mines. Closing the mining activities in coal mines is an ongoing process. Depending on parameters like exhaustion of coal reserves, economic viability of the coal mines, safety considerations and ability of the coal company to redeploy the workmen in a more viable mine etc., operational decisions are taken by coal companies to close mining activities in some mines and also to open some new mines. When any coal mine is conceived and approved, adequate funding for all activities including environmentally acceptable working and closing of the mining activities are duly factored in at the project formulation stage itself.