

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6274  
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2003  
SETTING UP OF REGULATORY AUTHORITY  
SUBODH MOHITE

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

- (a) whether the Government are considering to set up a Regulatory Authority for the country's coal sector in view of the Foreign Direct Investment in this sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA)

(a) to (c): Keeping in view the recommendations of the Committee on Integrated Coal Policy (Chari Committee), the Central Government decided in February, 1997, among other things, to set up an Independent Body to perform the functions of monitoring and processing the proposals for exploration of coal and lignite in the country and allotment of new coal and lignite blocks to Indian Companies, in public and private sector, on the basis of competitive bidding. Proposal was conceived in the context of the amendment to the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 to allow non-captive coal mining by the private sector. Necessary action in the matter may be taken after the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Bill, 2000 is enacted by the Parliament.