

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2585  
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2006  
INDO-AUSTRALIA COOPERATION ON MINING SECTOR  
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

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

- (a) whether extending the level of bilateral cooperation India and Australia have identified the Mining Sector as a priority area;
- (b) if so, whether India and Australia have forged alliance in order to encourage their company to form joint ventures;
- (c) if so, whether both countries have signed MoUs in the field of Mining;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the steps being taken to implement such agreements?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (Dr. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY)

(a) & (b) The India-Australia Joint Working Group on Energy and Minerals was established for enhancing bilateral co-operation in the energy and minerals sector and also to stimulate the development of commercial relationships to the benefit of India and Australia. The India-Australia Coal and Mining Forum was held in New Delhi on 1st and 2nd February, 2006 to enhance the collaborative relationship between India and Australia in the mining sector and to further facilitate information exchange and joint projects.

(c) A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed on 25th May, 2005 between the Ministry of Environment & Forests, Ministry of Mines and Federation of Indian Mineral Industries from the Indian side and the Department of Industry and Resources and the Department of Conservation and Land Management, Government of Western Australia and the Chamber of Mineral and Energy of Western Australia concerning `Cooperative Staff Development related to Environment Governance and Mine Rehabilitation`. The duration of the MOU is five years.

(d) The objective of the MOU is to establish a basis for cooperation in the fields of staff development and mutual beneficial exchange of information on good environmental governance and mine rehabilitation and inter-alia includes;

- (i) Exchange of staff, specialist and delegations,
- (ii) Cooperation in Training and Development,
- (iii) Exchange of scientific and Technical Information,
- (iv) Joint Organization of Symposia, Workshops and Lectures and
- (v) Other forms of cooperation as mutually arranged between the parties.

(e) A five member delegation from Western Australia visited India during 24th to 30th November 2005 to familiarize themselves about the problems and issues associated with mine rehabilitation.