

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5852

ANSWERED ON:04.05.2005

FREE TRADING OF COAL

Chowdhury Shri Adhir Ranjan; Das Gupta Shri Gurudas; Hamza Shri T.K.; Kamat Shri Gurudas; Mehta Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to allow free trading in coal by removing it from the essential commodities list;
- (b) if so, whether marketing and trading policy would be liberalized;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal for coal sector reforms ; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (c) A proposal to remove coal from Essential Commodities list is under consideration of the Government. Colliery Control Order, 2000 places no restriction on trading of coal by private parties.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill 2000 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in April, 2000, which seeks, inter alia, to allow Indian companies i.e. companies registered in India, to mine coal and lignite without the existing restriction of captive consumption; and to engage in exploration of coal and lignite resources in the country. The Government has also constituted an Expert Committee to draw a road map for coal sector.