

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:429
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2012
REOPENING OF CLOSED COAL PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government proposes to reopen the closed coal projects/mines;
- (b) if so, the projects which have been cleared and the States where these are located; and
- (c) the reasons for not clearing the other projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a) to (c): There is no such proposal from Government of India to reopen closed coal mines. However, the Coal India Limited (CIL) has proposed to develop a few identified abandoned coal mines under its jurisdiction.

Initially, it was proposed to revive 18 identified abandoned/closed/derelict or disused underground coal mines of different subsidiaries of CIL [(Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL)-6, Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL)-8 & Central Coalfields Limited (CCL)-4); (West Bengal-6, Jharkhand-12)] through joint venture route with participation of internationally reputed private parties having strong financial resources and technological expertise to deal with the safety issues and appropriate technologies.

However, during the process of tendering, BCCL had taken up action for departmental exploitation of the upper horizons for three abandoned mines out of the eight mines identified in BCCL and proposed to exploit the lower horizons of the said abandoned mines through Joint Venture route. For remaining 15 mines the concerned subsidiaries coal companies of CIL have floated/likely to float open tenders. CIL Board is empowered to clear these projects and there is no need for Government approval.