

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3957
ANSWERED ON:05.09.2012
ALLOCATION OF COAL BLOCKS
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether not a single meeting of the Scrutiny Committee has been held since 2008 regarding allocation of coal blocks; and
(b) if so, the basis on which coal blocks have been allocated to a number of companies after 2008 ?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : There is no Scrutiny Committee set up for allocation of coal blocks. However, there was a Screening Committee and for the 38 coal blocks advertised in 2006, the Screening Committee recommended for allocation of 15 coal blocks in its meetings held on 20th to 23rd June, 2007, 30th July, 2007 and 13th September, 2007 and for 23 coal blocks in its meetings held on 7th-8th December, 2007, 7th-8th February, 2008 and 3rd July, 2008. In pursuance of the orders of Delhi High Court in W.P.(C) No.6449/2008, the Screening Committee met on 29.06.2011 and 04.10.2011. It may be stated that no blocks were advertised for allocation after the Bill to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 was introduced in Parliament in 2008. The allocation of coal blocks to private companies made after 2008 is only on account of culmination of the process which was initiated prior to introduction of the Bill.