

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:745
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2013
ALLOCATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Bali Ram Dr.

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to constitute a new body on allocation of natural resources, etc.
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be finalised; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken to ensure that resource allocation does not give windfall benefit to private entities?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR FINANCE (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) : There is no proposal at present to constitute a new body on allocation of natural resources. However, a Group of Ministers (GoM) on "Measures that can be taken by the Government to tackle corruption" had decided on 21st January, 2011, inter-alia, to deliberate on issues of enhancing transparency, effectiveness and sustainability in utilization of natural resources, consistent with the needs of the country to achieve accelerated economic development. Accordingly, a Committee on Allocation of Natural Resources under the Chairmanship of Shri Ashok Chawla, formerly Finance Secretary, was constituted by the Cabinet Secretariat to deliberate on these aspects and make recommendations.

(b)&(c): The Ashok Chawla Committee submitted its Report on 31st May, 2011 giving 81 recommendations covering eight natural resources viz. mineral, coal, petroleum, natural gas, spectrum, land, water and forests under the following administrative Ministries viz. Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Ministry of Communications and IT, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Urban Development and Ministry of Water Resources. The GoM has already accepted 69 of these 81 recommendations and further action on all these recommendations are to be pursued by individual Ministries in a timely manner. A Monitoring Mechanism has also been set up under the Cabinet Secretary to monitor the implementation of the accepted recommendations. The thrust of the Committee's recommendations is generally to move towards a transparent system of allocation and pricing of identified natural resources.