

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2517

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013

REGULATOR FOR COAL SECTOR

Naik Dr. Sanjeev Ganesh; Pandey Shri Ravindra Kumar; Pangi Shri Jayaram; Patil Shri Sanjay Dina ; Sule Supriya

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

- (a): whether a proposal to establish an independent regulator for the coal sector is under consideration of the Government;
- (b): if so, the details and the present status of the proposal;
- (c): the benefits likely to accrue to the coal sector and coal users/ coal utility units;
- (d): whether private sector companies engaged in the commercial mining of coal would be brought under the ambit of the said regulator/ authority; and
- (e): if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor along with the details of the private sector companies engaged in the coal sector?

**Answer**

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

(a)to(c):A proposal for setting up of the Independent Regulatory Authority for coal sector was submitted for consideration of the Cabinet. The same was considered by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 10.5.2012 and was referred to a Group of Ministers (GOM) for making recommendations. The GoM had held two meetings on 25.7.2012 and 21.01.2013 so far to consider the proposal.

It is expected that the constitution of an independent regulatory body for coal sector would result in more optimal development and conservation of coal resources, more effective regulation on mine working conditions, adoption of best mining practices, redressal of complaints, etc.

(d)&(e): The private sector companies are not engaged in the commercial mining of coal as per the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act. 1973, as amended from time to time. However, coal mines allotted to private companies for captive use would also come under the purview of the proposed Regulator.