

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3288  
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2009  
AUCTION FOR ALLOCATION OF COAL BLOCKS  
Basavaraj Shri Gangasandra Siddappa;Sule Supriya

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

- (a) whether a broad consensus has been evolved at Centre- State meeting on August 10, 2009 on the issue of introducing auction system for allocating coal blocks;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the issue regarding resettlement and rehabilitation package for the project affected families was also discussed;
- (d) if so, the outcome thereof;
- (e) whether States were also keen that private sector should make firm commitment on social responsibility at the time of bidding itself;
- (f) if so, the final decision taken in this regard; and
- (g) the time by which the decision is likely to be implemented?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION(SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

- (a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Majority of the States present in the meeting on 10.08.2009 supported the move to adopt the auction system through competitive bidding for allocation of coal and lignite blocks.
- (c) & (d): Yes, Sir. The representatives of the State Governments of coal and lignite bearing areas supported the proposal that while auctioning coal blocks, a firm commitment shall be obtained from all the bidders that they shall fully comply with the requirements of the National Policy on Resettlement and Rehabilitation or the State Policy on the matter, whichever is more favourable towards the affected families. They also suggested to work out the cost of resettlement and rehabilitation before bidding. Andhra Pradesh Government suggested that their existing policy of resettlement and rehabilitation in respect of irrigation projects can also be extended to coal mining projects.
- (e) & (f): The State Governments supported the proposal on obtaining commitment from the bidders towards undertaking community welfare and peripheral area development in conformity with the National/State Policy on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).
- (g): Since this involves consideration and passage of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2008 as introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 17.10.2008 by the Parliament, it is not feasible to indicate any time frame for implementation.