

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2555
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2015
INTERNET ATTACK ON COAL BLOCK ALLOCATION PROCESS
Sigriwal Shri Janardan Singh

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Cabinet Secretariat has issued any directives to the Ministry for strict compliance of surveillance norms against the internet attack on the current coal block allocation process;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the private sector is being allocated coal blocks through e-auction for the first time by the Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to make this entire process clean and transparent?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (I/C) FOR COAL, POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b) : No, Sir. However, a third party security audit of the MSTC's (service provider) web portal on which e-auction of coal mines is being carried out, has been undertaken.

(c) & (d) Yes, Sir. Out of 204 coal blocks cancelled by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, e-auction of 33 numbers of coal mines in 31 packages has been carried out for the first time by the Government under the provisions of Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Second Ordinance, 2014 and Rules made thereunder. To keep the process transparent, the auction of coal mines has been conducted through e-auction on an electronic platform created by MSTC Limited (a Government of India enterprise) and no physical bids were accepted or considered.