

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2594
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2015
INVESTIGATION INTO COAL SCAM
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the present status of investigation into the coal scam;
- (b) whether the Government has assessed the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the policy of the Government with regard to Methane Gas and the quantum of coal mined during the last three years and the current year in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PYUSH GOYAL)

(a) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has registered 3 Preliminary Enquiry (PE) cases regarding alleged irregularities in allocation of coal blocks – relating to allocation of coal blocks to private companies during the period 2006-09, relating to allocation of coal blocks to private companies during the period 1993-2004 and relating to allocation of coal blocks to Government companies. In view of the various observations of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India in W.P. (Criminal) No.120 of 2012, it would not be possible for the Ministry of Coal to obtain any details from CBI in this regard.

(b) & (c): In wake of the judgement/order of Hon'ble Supreme Court cancelling allocation of 204 coal blocks, it was considered expedient in public interest by the Central Government to take immediate action so as to ensure energy security of the country and to minimize any impact on core sectors such as steel, cement and power utilities, which are vital for the development of the country. Accordingly, the Government has promulgated the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014 on 21.10.2014 for allocation of cancelled coal blocks to be selected through an auction or allotment to Government companies as the case may be. The said Ordinance has also inserted Section 3(A) in the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 and amended Section 11(A) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 thereby removing the restriction of end use from the eligibility to undertake coal mining.

As the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2014 which was introduced in the Parliament was under consideration of the Rajya Sabha, the Coal Mines (Special Provision) Second Ordinance, 2014 was promulgated on 26th December, 2014.

(d): In order to harness Coal Bed Methane (CBM) potential in the country, the Government of India formulated CBM Policy, 1997 wherein CBM being natural gas is explored under the provisions of Oil Fields (Regulation & Development) Act, 1948 and Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959 administered by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. Directorate of Hydrocarbons (DGH) was designated as the agency for implementing CBM policy. Since CBM occurs in conjunction with coal deposits, in order to lay down the basic ground rules, anMoU was signed in 1997 between Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Ministry of Coal for facilitating development of CBM of India.

The coal production during the last three years and current year in India is given below:-

| Year | All India Coal Production (In Million Tonnes) |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 2011-12 | 539.950 |
| 2012-13 | 556.402 |
| 2013-14 | 565.766 |
| 2014-15 (Upto February, 2015) | 544.451 |