

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3045  
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2014  
PRIVATE PLAYERS IN MINING SECTOR  
Adhikari Shri Sisir Kumar

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to permit more private players in the commercial mining sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and the response of the Coal India Limited (CIL) on such a move and the reaction of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c): The Hon'ble Supreme Court vide its judgement dated 25.08.2014 and order dated 24.09.2014 in Writ Petition (Criminal) No.120 of 2012 (Manoharlal Sharma Vs. Principal Secretary & Ors.) and Writ Petition (Civil) No.463 of 2012 (Common Cause Vs. UOI & Ors.) as well as other connected PILs, has cancelled the allocation of 204 coal blocks out of 218 coal blocks allocated since 1993.

In light of the above and in order to overcome acute shortage of coal in the country and augment its production, the Coal Mines (Special Provisions), Ordinance, 2014 was promulgated on 21.10.2014. The Ordinance also amended the provisions of some existing Acts by inserting Section 3(A) in the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973 and by amending Section 11(A) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 thereby removing the restriction of end use from the eligibility to undertake coal mining, in the national interest.

The Coal India Limited is not adversely impacted as Coal blocks cancelled by orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court are proposed to be allotted/ auctioned at present.