

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3217  
ANSWERED ON:11.12.2014  
COMMERCIAL COAL MINING  
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

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

- (a) whether the Government has allowed foreign companies with units or joint ventures in India to undertake commercial coal mining in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of foreign companies shown interest to undertake commercial coal mining in the country and the terms and conditions thereof;
- (c) the present position of coal reserves in the country and position of coal imported; and
- (d) the extent to which the permission to foreign companies for coal mining will meet the coal demand in various sectors?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) : For management and reallocation of cancelled coal blocks, Government has promulgated 'the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014' on 21.10.2014 to ensure smooth transfer of rights, title and interest in the mines along with its land and other associated mining infrastructure to the new allottees to be selected through an auction or allotment to government company, as the case may be. In order to provide sufficient coal to small consumers, medium and small enterprises, cottage industries, household consumers and to overcome the acute shortage of the country and augment its production; the Ordinance has also amended the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973 to insert section 3(A) and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to insert section 11(A), thereby removing the restriction of end use from the eligibility to undertake coal mining, in the national interest. As per the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014, a company or a joint venture company formed by two or more companies are eligible to carry on coal mining operations in India, in any form either for own consumption, sale or for any other purpose in accordance with the permit, prospecting licence or mining lease, as the case may be. The company has the same meaning as assigned to it in Clause 20 of Section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013 i.e. a company incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 or under any previous company law.

(c) The coal reserves are explored on regular basis in order to increase production of coal in the country. As a result of exploration carried out, a cumulative total of 3,01,564 million tonnes of Geological Reserves of coal have so far been estimated in the country as on 01.04. 2014. As per information available, 100.6 million tonnes of coal has been imported in the country upto the month of September 2014 during the year 2014-15.

(d) In view of the answer to part (a) above, question does not arise.