

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4219
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2014
AMENDMENT IN COAL MINES NATIONALISATION ACT
Karandlaje Km. Shobha

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to amend the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, in view of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement on coal block allocation;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?.

Answer

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

(a) to(c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court, vide its order/judgment dated 25.08.2014 and 24.09.2014 in Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 120 of 2012 and other connected matters, has cancelled the allocation of 204 coal blocks out of 218 coal blocks allocated since 1993.

In light of the judgment and order of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, 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 nation. As Parliament was not in session and immediate action was required to be taken by the Central Government to implement the said order and to address the above objectives, the Ordinance namely, the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014 was promulgated by the President on 21.10.2014 under article 123 of the Constitution of India.

Further, in order to overcome acute shortage of coal in the country and augment its production to meet needs of Micro & Small Scale households, the Ordinance also inserted Section 3(A) in the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, 1973 and amended 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.