

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4344  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2014  
PRIVATISATION OF COALFIELDS COAL BLOCKS  
Mahendran Shri C.

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

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal to privatise coalfields and coal blocks in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the time by which the said proposal is likely to be implemented?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (c) The Coal sector has been open to private companies for several years now for specified end users.

Further, the Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgment dated 25.08.2014 and order dated 24.09.2014 has cancelled 204 Coal Blocks allocated since 1993. In view of this 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. Further, in order to overcome acute shortage of coal in the country and augment its production to meet needs of household consumers, medium and small enterprises and cottage industries, 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 Ordinance provides for allocation of coal blocks in a time bound manner.