

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF MINES  
RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. 228  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 8<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2016**

**FORUM FOR ADRESSING COAL AND MINERALS PROBLEMS**

**\*228. SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH:**

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether an independent forum should be put in place for better coordination between the Centre and the States to address the problems relating to coal and minerals, and if so, by when it would be constituted; and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (b) the efforts being made by Government to repeal the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957 and to provide for registration as the State Governments are suffering huge losses of stamp and registration fees as no contract has been executed by State Governments with coal companies?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) There is already an Inter State Council set up under Article 263 of the Constitution. The Council is a recommendatory body with the duties inter-alia, of

- (i) Investigating and discussing such subjects in which all or some of the States, or the Union and one or more of the States have a common interest;
- (ii) Making recommendations upon any such subject and in particular, recommendations for the better coordination of policy and action with respect to that subject.

Apart from that, regular meetings are held at the level of Minister and Secretary of the Ministry of Coal with the Ministers and Chief Secretaries of the States to resolve various issues relating to Coal and PSUs under the Ministry of Coal.

A Central Coordination-cum-Empowered Committee (CCEC) has been set-up under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) on 4.3.2009

consisting of the Central Ministries/Departments of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Home Affairs, Steel, Civil Aviation, Railways, Shipping, Revenue, Fertilizers and Atomic Energy. The other members of CCEC are the important mineral producing states of Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Telangana and the Indian Bureau of Mines and Geological Survey of India.

The CCEC holds quarterly meetings, inter alia, to coordinate actions of the Central Ministries/Departments and the State Governments on important matters relating to mineral development and regulation in the country; to review status of mineral concession applications pending with the State Governments and suggest corrective measures for expediting their disposal; to coordinate Departmental clearances through follow-up with the individual Departments/Ministries and ensuring timely completion of internal procedures and prompt disposal of mineral concession proposals; and coordination and review of steps for prevention and detection of illegal mining.

As such there is no need for constitution of separate Independent Forum.

(b) : At present, there is no proposal to repeal the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957. Land under the said Act is acquired by complying with all the provisions of the Act, The question of any loss of revenue on account of registration and stamp duty to the State does not arise as the State Governments earn revenue on coal removed or consumed by coal companies in the form of royalty / dead rent etc.

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