

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

**MINISTRY OF COAL**

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO: 5138

ANSWERED ON: 14.08.2014

**INVESTMENT IN AFGHANISTAN S MINERAL SECTOR**

SHIVAJI ADHALRAO PATIL

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:-

(a) whether any Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with Afghanistan aimed at propelling investments in that country's mineral sector, especially coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Afghanistan has requested our county to employ coal expertise to help it develop untapped coal basins and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government has inked any coal exploration pact with Afghanistan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

(a)&(b): A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between Ministry of Coal, Government of India and the Ministry of Mines of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on 12-11-2012 on cooperation in the field of development of Coal Mineral Resources, which inter-alia includes:-

1) Promotion of private and public sectors investment in the area of coal mining and related activities;

2) Coal mineral exploration and exploitation including large scale mining;

3) Training in areas such as:

a) Courses on coal mining for geologists and mining engineers;

(b) Geographic Information System (GIS) and remote sensing applied for coal mineral exploration;

(c) Engineering geology and geotechnical investigations;

(d) Social and environmental impact assessment in coal mining projects and strategic to mitigate these impacts and

(d) Occupational safety and health in coal mining.

4) Geological mapping and research on coal mineral deposits.

5) Government of India shall promote formation of consortium of companies for investment in the coal sector in Afghanistan. Government of Afghanistan will provide the necessary investment climate , security and other facilities required for the Indian mining companies to invest in the mineral sector in Afghanistan.

6. Exchange of technologies and expertise in high-tech mechanization of underground and opencast mines keeping in view the production, productivity, safety and economics.

7. Exchange of expertise on multi-seam mining under fire/water logged and below surface infrastructure including township.

8. Sharing of expertise in the field of design and maintenance of overburden slope with development of sensors in overburden piles to detect slope failures.

9. Training of multi seam mining under fire /water logged and below surface infrastructure.

10. separate agreements / arrangement will be concluded for implementing specific projects arising from cooperative activities under this MoU.

MoU is valid for five years from the date of entering into the same and is extend for a period of further five years. A joint working Group on coal was also formed as per the Article 7 of the MoU for discussing the activities of Technical Cooperation.

(c) to (e): No Sir.

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