16th Round of Commercial Coal Mine Auctions Draws Overwhelming Response; 85 Bids Received for 18 Coal Blocks

Bids rise four-fold over the previous round, with 20 first-time bidders entering the sector

Strong investor interest affirms coal's enduring role in India's energy security

Posted On: 20 NOV 2026 4:23PM by PIB Delhi

The Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal, today opened the bids for the 16th round and 2nd attempt of 15th round of Commercial Coal Mine Auctions, which offered 26 coal blocks across eight states. The round has drawn 85 bids for 18 coal blocks, a response that has surpassed expectations and stands among the strongest in recent rounds.

The online bids were decrypted and opened electronically in the presence of the bidders, followed by the sealed envelopes containing the offline bid documents. The proceedings were displayed live on screen throughout; in keeping with the transparent process the Ministry follows in every round.

The turnout marks a decisive step up. The 16th round received 83 bids for 17 coal blocks, and the second attempt of 15th round received 2 bids for 1 coal block. Competition in the current round has been intense, with 16 of the 26 blocks attracting multiple bids. The round has also brought 20 first-time bidders into the commercial coal mining regime, a clear sign that the sector continues to draw new capital and new players.

That confidence rests on strong fundamentals. Production from captive and commercial coal mines rose 10.22% to 210.46 million tonnes in FY 2025-26, and coal continues to anchor India’s energy security as demand grows with the economy. Since 2020, 145 coal mines have been auctioned across 15 rounds, bringing in 44 new companies. These mines are expected to generate about Rs. 47,500 crore in annual revenue and around 4.9 lakh jobs. The auction framework adds to the appeal, with no end-use restriction on coal, 100% FDI through the automatic route and low upfront payments.

The bids will now be evaluated by a multi-disciplinary Technical Evaluation Committee. Technically qualified bidders will be shortlisted to participate in the electronic auction on the MSTC portal.

With each round, commercial coal mining draws deeper and wider investor commitment. The strong participation in the current round reinforces the sector's place at the heart of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and India's journey towards Viksit Bharat @2047.

****

Shuhaib T

(Release ID: 2339072) Visitor Counter : 386
Read this release in: Urdu , हिन्दी , Tamil , Telugu

Share

337 words | 1 min read