

Coal Ministry holds mines auction roadshow in Ranchi

Our Bureau
New Delhi

The Coal Ministry held a roadshow in Ranchi to attract participation in commercial coal auctions. The proceedings for the eight and ninth rounds of commercial auctions are underway.

The event, held on Tuesday in the capital of Jharkhand, which accounts for 32 per cent of India's coal reserves, was led by Coal Secretary AL Meena and Additional Secretary M Nagaraju.

Meena, who attended virtually, reiterated the ministry's commitment to supporting the industry and the Centre's assistance towards prospective bidders.

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He highlighted the highly profitable nature of the business, as seen from the coal mines that have commenced production under commercial auction.

The Ministry has launched the auction process for 35 mines under the eighth round and four mines under the second attempt of the seventh round, after single bids were received in the first attempt on November 15, 2023. The bid due date is January 29, 2024.

Additionally, the ninth round for 27 mines and the second attempt of the seventh round for five blocks were launched on December 20, 2023. The bid due date for the ninth round is February 19, 2024.

The key features of the auction process include reduction in the upfront amount and bid security, permission to relinquish part of the mine in case of partially explored mines, introduction of a National Coal Index and National Lignite Index, ease of participation with no entry barriers, full flexibility in utilisation, and rebate for performance security for underground mines, among others.