

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
STEEL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:134  
ANSWERED ON:20.02.2006  
ACQUISITION OF OVERSEAS COAL MINES  
Saroj Shri Tufani

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

- (a) whether a delegation of Steel Authority of India Limited visited Poland, Russia and Australia recently;
- (b) if so, the composition of above mentioned delegation;
- (c) whether this delegation has negotiated for acquisition of coal mines in these countries; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Each delegation which visited these countries comprised two senior officials from SAIL.

(c)&(d): The purpose of the visit of these delegations was to : (i) explore the possibilities of acquisition of equity stake in coking coal mines in these countries; (ii) making an assessment of the suitability of the coals for use in SAIL plants; (iii) issues pertaining to development of mines and investments required; and (iv) transportation of coal from these countries to India. Currently, an assessment of quality aspects of the coals is being made. As such, no negotiations for acquisition of equity stake have yet been initiated.