

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FICCI comments on Govt.'s decision to bring an Ordinance to clear the coal blocks impasse**

***“ It is also necessary that the route followed must provide a level playing field for both public and private sector including on terms and pricing”, says FICCI president Sidharth Birla.***

**New Delhi, October 21, 2014:** FICCI welcomed the Government's decision to bring an Ordinance to clear the impasse created by the recent Supreme Court's judgement cancelling 204 coal blocks allotted since 1993. *“This is an important decision and highlights the Government's seriousness to reform the coal sector. The Ordinance will address the future of cancelled blocks and ensure that the already producing blocks are brought back on track. Through this move the Government has arrested concerns pertaining to diminishing coal supplies.”*, **said Mr. Sidharth Birla, President, FICCI.**

*“It is also necessary that the route followed must provide a level playing field for both public and private sector including on terms and pricing”, added Mr. Birla.*

While the Ordinance is an immediate measure to address the current impasse, Mr. Birla applauded the Government's intent to move ahead with market-based reforms paving way for advent of commercial mining in coal sector, a necessary reform FICCI has advocated for a revitalised coal sector in India.

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