

## Indian government mulls JV route to connect coal mines with tracks

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Business Standard reported that top officials of the coal and railway ministries will meet on January 25th to decide on a proposed draft of developing railway lines which would connect coal mines to projects. According to reports, the government has agreed to allow private firms to build and operate critical railway lines connecting Coal India mines to power, steel and cement projects.

Refusing to disclose the investment required for this, coal secretary Mr Anil Swarup said that the government is ready to set up JV and turning these in to independent profit sectors. Mr Swarup said that “We have identified 50 railway projects and I have written to the chairman of the Railway Board for his feedback. We will meet on 25 January to discuss it.”

He said that the project not only pertains to developing railway lines but also to increase the availability of railway tracks. He added that “CIL is looking to develop 415 rakes from the current 250 rakes in next three to four years to match the infrastructure to move the coal which would be mined.”

He said that “Developing these railway projects is critical to evacuate the coal which is being mined, it is important that the coal we extract reach the target.”

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