

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4502  
ANSWERED ON:22.04.2003  
COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION OF COAL BED METHANE  
SUBODH MOHITE

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

- (a) whether the Coal India Limited has made agreement with ONGC for commercial exploitation of coal bed Methane in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any of the block from Western Coalfields Limited has been chosen for development of CBM under this agreement;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA)

- (a) & (b): Yes, Sir. Two blocks have been awarded to CIL- ONGC consortium on nomination basis. These two blocks are – Raniganj (about 356 Sq. KM) in the state of West Bengal and another block at Jharia (about 85 Sq. KM) in the state of Jharkhand. Coal India Limited has signed a contract for the same along with ONGC with Government of India on 6/2/2003.
- (c): No, Sir.
- (d): Does not arise in view of reply given to part (c) above.
- (e): WCL blocks have not been considered for awarding to CIL-ONGC on nomination basis.