

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6284  
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2003  
RESERVES OF LIGNITE  
NANDIPAKU VENKATASWAMY

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

- (a) the total estimated reserves of Lignite in the country as on 31.3.2003, State-wise;
- (b) the target fixed for production of coal and lignite during 2003-2004; and
- (c) the number of companies granted permission/licence to mine and explore the coal and lignite reserves?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA)

a) The State-wise estimated lignite reserves of the country as on 31.3.2003 are as under :-

State	Total Geological Reserves (Million Tonnes)
Tamil Nadu	30523.46
Rajasthan	3098.82
Gujarat	1777.68
Jammu & Kashmir	127.84
Kashmir	
Kerala	108.30
Total	35636.10

b) A production target of 350.05 million tonnes of coal and 28.87 million tonnes of lignite has been fixed during the year 2003-04.

c) By virtue of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, Coal India Limited and its seven subsidiary companies are allowed to mine and explore coal in the country. As per section 5(1) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, previous approval of the Central Government for grant of mining lease for coal has been granted in favour of ten companies. Central Government's approval has also been granted to two companies for prospecting coal.

Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd. and seven other companies have so far been granted mining lease for lignite.