

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:476
ANSWERED ON:22.02.2006
COAL BLOCKS OF COAL INDIA LIMITED
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Coal India Ltd. has allocated 89 coal blocks out of which production has started only in 8 coal blocks.
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor, (
- (c) whether it is the main reason for the huge difference between production and demand of coal; and
- (d) if so, the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

- (a) : Coal blocks are not allocated by the Coal India Limited(CIL). However, Government of India have allocated/decided for allocation 91 coal blocks. Production has started in 8 coal blocks.
- (b) : The allocatees of Coal blocks, who have not started production so far, are in various stages of obtaining statutory clearances and mining lease, preparing mining plan, acquiring land, machinery and equipments etc for both the mining as well end-use projects. The progress achieved by them against certain given milestones are reviewed by the Screening Committee from time to time and if the desired progress is not achieved despite consistent persuasion, the blocks are de-allocated. So far three coal blocks have already been de- allocated for want of satisfactory progress in development of coal block and installation of end-use projects.
- (c) : Development of coal blocks involves a long gestation of about 3 to 5 years to reach production stage and about another two years to reach its optimal production capacity. Therefore, once production commences from the captive blocks allocated, the availability of coal would improve significantly.
- (d) : Does not arise in view of the reply given to part (c) above.