

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4225  
ANSWERED ON:21.04.2010  
EXPLOITATION OF COAL BED METHANE  
Paranjpe Shri Anand Prakash;Singh Chaudhary Lal

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

- (a) whether the Government has allotted some coal mines to the oil companies for exploitation of Coal Bed Methane (CBM);
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take back these coal mines from the oil companies;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the total loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

- (a) & (b): The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has so far awarded 23 Coal Bed Methane (CBM) blocks in addition to 2 CBM blocks awarded earlier on nomination basis and one block through the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) route.
- (c) & (d): As per the provisions of the CBM contract, a contractor is entitled to surrender partly or completely the CBM block, if found to be non-prospective after exploration activities. So far, three CBM blocks, namely BS(3)-CBM-2003/II, ST-CBM-2003/II and WD-CBM-2003/II have been surrendered by Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC). On such surrender, the lease of the contract area is automatically cancelled.
- (e): Does not arise in view of reply given at (c) & (d) above.