

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5285
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010
COAL LINKAGE TO THERMAL POWER PLANTS
Dhruvanarayana Shri R.

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether despite abundant coal reserves, almost a third of country's coal deposits will remain out-of-bounds for mining as these areas are now classified to be ecologically too fragile to allow mining;
- (b) if so, the contingency plans under the consideration of the Government to ensure coal linkage to ultra-mega thermal power plants coming up at four different locations; and
- (c) if so, the details 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): No, Sir. A study is going on under the purview of Ministry of Environment and Forests to demarcate the coal blocks into category 'A' & category 'B' coal blocks. When a coal block has a large forest area or dense forest cover or forms a part of unbroken landscape or is located in an important wild life area it will fall in 'A' category. Application of forest clearance will not be entertained in such areas. The rest of the areas will fall in 'B' category where applications for clearance will be entertained and processed under Forest Conservation Act, 1980. However, this study is in a nascent stage and further plans would be considered only after completion of the above study.

(b) & (c): Specific identified Coal Blocks have been linked with the four Ultra Mega Power Projects which are being allotted on the basis of tariff based bidding by the Ministry of Power and no contingency plan for such power projects for providing coal linkages is under consideration of Ministry of Coal.