

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2930
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010
FOREST CLEARANCE TO MORGAL-II
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Chhattisgarh Government has requested the Union Government for forest clearance for Morga-II Coal Block allocated to Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited (GMDCL);
- (b) if so, whether the forest clearance has been accorded;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the clearance is likely to be given?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (d) A proposal for undertaking prospecting in the Morga - II coal block, allocated by the Central Ministry of Coal to Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited (GMDC), was received from the State Government of Chhattisgarh on 25.11.2009. As the coal block falls in Hasdeo-Arand coalfield, which is categorized as Category 'A' area as per the joint exercise undertaken by the Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Coal, the State Government was conveyed the inability of the Central Government to accord permission for prospecting of coal in this coal block in light of decision taken by the Central Government in such cases.