

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2078

ANSWERED ON:09.03.2011

COAL MINING IN DEOCHA PACHAMI

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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the distinctive features of the Deocha-Pachami coal reserve in Birbhum district in West Bengal;
- (b) whether a Joint Venture (JV) has been formed between National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and a West Bengal Government undertaking for mining coal in Deocha-Pachami;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the process followed for entrusting the mining to the JV;
- (e) the salient details of technological expertise essential for exploration of coal in this reserve vis-à-vis those/coal mining experience possessed by JV partners;
- (f) the manner in which the same is compared to those of Coal India Ltd. (CIL); and
- (g) the reasons for keeping CIL out of this venture?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a): The Deocha-Pachami Coal Block (area about 10 sq. km.) is located in the south western part of Birbhum Coalfield, West Bengal and has been regionally explored by Geological Survey of India. Four coal seam zones have been identified in the block. However, the coal seams are concealed by a thick cover of Trap formation. An indicated category coal resources of 2025 Mt. has been reported in Deocha-Pachami and adjoining eastern sector in Grade-C to G and upto 850 m depth.

(b) & (c): Ministry of Coal is not aware of formation of Joint Venture between National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and a West Bengal Government undertaking for mining coal in Deocha-Pachami. However, a request has been received from the Government of West Bengal for allocation of Deocha Pachami coal block to a Special Purpose Vehicle to be formed by Coal India Limited, National Mineral Development Corporation and West Bengal Mineral Development and Trading Corporation Ltd.

(d): Does not arise in view of the reply given to parts (b) & (c) above.

(e) & (f): Normal coal exploration techniques required for detailed exploration of trap covered deep seated coal reserves will be applied in Deocha-Pachami Block. This includes use of different type of bits with high capacity drills. Similar type of drilling is carried out by Coal Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd. in trap covered/deep seated blocks.

(g): Does not arise in view of the reply given to parts (b) & (c) above.