

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2607
ANSWERED ON:17.08.2011
CLEARANCE TO COAL BLOCKS
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether coal blocks are allocated by the Government before taking environment clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether his Ministry has any proposal for taking environment clearance before allocating coal blocks;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard so far;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefore; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to deal with cases of the public/private sector companies whom coal blocks have been allocated but clearance is not being given by the Ministry of Environment and Forests?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): The environment clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forest is not obtained by the Government before allocating coal blocks. There is no statutory or procedural requirement for the same. 216 coal blocks with geological reserves of about 50 billion tonnes have been allocated to eligible public and private companies under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. Of these, 24 coal blocks have been de-allocated. Of the de-allocated coal blocks, two coal blocks were re-allocated to eligible companies under the said Act. In view of above, the net allocated blocks are 194 with geological reserves of about 44.44 billion tonnes.

(c): No, Sir,

(d): Does not arise in view of reply given at (c) above.

(e) & (f): The responsibility of developing the coal block as per the prescribed guidelines and milestones rests entirely with the allocatee companies who are required to obtain the statutory clearances including forestry and environmental clearance for both mining as well as end-use project. It is informed that at the time of advertising the coal blocks for inviting applications from eligible companies, the Ministry of Coal places in its official Website at www.coal.nic.in all the relevant details of each coal block considered for allocation including the location of the coal block (longitudes and latitudes), estimated coal reserves, estimated coal grade etc. well in advance. Further the guidelines for allocation of coal blocks are also placed in the Website of Ministry of Coal. It is for the companies to exercise due diligence before making application for allocation of a particular coal block.