

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3400

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2011

EXPLOITATION OF MINERALS

Mishra Shri Govind Prasad;Patel Shri Deoraj Singh

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry proposes to approach the Ministry of Environment and Forests to relax the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and the rules made there under so as to facilitate proper exploitation of existing minerals in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b). Based on the request of Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Limited/Coal India Limited, Ministry of Coal has approached Ministry of Environment and Forests for relaxing the guidelines of Ministry of Environment and Forests under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for drilling upto 15-20 boreholes per Sq. Km. from present level of 15-20 boreholes per 10 Sq. Km. for both opencast (OC) and underground (UG) coal mining projects without the need for obtaining forest clearance.