

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1707
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2012
ALLOCATION OF COAL BLOCKS
Das Shri Khagen

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Government allotted some coal blocks to some of private companies on 27th February, 2009, a day prior to the notification of General Elections on 2nd March, 2009;
- (b) if so, the reasons and circumstances under which these coal blocks were allotted to these private companies which resulted in a windfall gain of thousands of crores of rupees to these two companies;
- (c) whether the Government has initiated an enquiry into this illegal and questionable allotment of coal blocks to these private companies; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a): The names of the companies which have been allocated coal blocks on 27.02.2009 are given below:-

Name of allocatee	Name of Coal Block	End use	Geological resources	(in Million tones)
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(i) Jindal Steel & Power Ltd.	Ramchandi	Promotional Coal To	1500	Liquid (CTL)
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(ii) Strategic Energy Technology Systems Ltd.	North of Arkhapal-	CTL	1500	Srirampur
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(iii) West Bengal Power Development Corporation	East of Damagoria	Power	337	(Kalyaneshwari)
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(b) to (d): The process for allocation of coal blocks for CTL was started in May, 2008. Advertisement inviting applications was published in newspapers/Website of Ministry of Coal in June, 2008. In total, 28 applications from various public and private sector companies were received. An Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) was set up under the Chairmanship of Member (Energy), Planning Commission to screen the applications and to make recommendation to the Government. The applicant companies were given opportunity to make a presentation before the IMG from 29.09.2008 to 01.10.2008. The IMG after detailed examination and deliberations, gave its recommendation to the Government in January, 2009. Based on the recommendations of IMG, the Government allocated the blocks on 27.02.2009. These blocks are yet to come into production.

East of Damagoria (Kalyaneshwari) coal block was allocated at the request of the Government of West Bengal under Government Dispensation route to M/s West Bengal Power Development Corporation Ltd. for generation of power. However, the allocatee company surrendered the coal block and accordingly the Government has since de-allocated the coal block on 21.10.2011.