

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1708  
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012  
LIGNITE MINES ON LEASE  
Pathak Shri Harin

**Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from the State Government of Gujarat for prior approval on GMDC's mining lease application of lignite bearing areas of 3319 hectares in Kutch district; and

(b) if so, the details and the status thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b): A proposal from the State Government of Gujarat for prior approval on GMDC's mining lease application of lignite bearing area of 3319 hectares in Kutch district has been received.

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2010 provides for grant of reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence or mining lease in respect of an area containing coal and lignite through auction by competitive bidding, on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed. This, would however, not be applicable in the following cases:-

# where such area is considered for allocation to a Government company or corporation for mining or such other specified end use;

# where such area is considered for allocation to a company or corporation that has been awarded a power project on the basis of competitive bids for tariff (including Ultra Mega Power Projects).

The Government has notified the "Auction by Competitive Bidding of Coal Mines Rules, 2012" on 2nd February, 2012. Further, the notification on the commencement of the said Amendment Act, 2010 has also been notified by the Ministry of Mines on 13th February, 2012. The coal/lignite blocks can only be allocated under the amended Act and above mentioned Rules.