

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1804  
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2012  
ALLOCATION OF COAL BLOCKS  
Viswanathan Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests has objected to the allocation of coal blocks in Mahaan and Chhatrasal in Madhya Pradesh in the meeting of the Group of Ministers;
- (b) if so, the manner in which these coal blocks were cleared without taking into considerations the objections raised by the Ministry;
- (c) the beneficiaries of the coal blocks allocation and the reasons for not adhering to the Supreme Court directives in the bidding process;
- (d) whether the allottees have complied with the forest rights regulations; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therfor?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e): Mahan coal block in Madhya Pradesh was allotted to M/s Essar Power Limited and M/s Hindalco Industries Limited on 12.04.2006 based on the recommendations of the 27th Screening Committee meeting held on 01/03/2005 for the end use power plants. Chhatrasal coal block was allotted to M/s Power Finance Corporation for Sasan Ultra Mega Power Project (UMPP) on 26.10.2006 for allocation through tariff based bidding. In compliance to the decision of the seventh meeting of the Group of Ministers (GoM) held on 30th May, 2012 to consider the environmental and developmental issues relating Mahan and Chhatrasal coal blocks in Madhya Pradesh, the Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) accorded Stage-I approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for diversion of forest land located within the Mahan and Chhatrasal Coal Blocks. The approval accorded for diversion of the said forest land is subject, inter-alia, to fulfillment of the conditions that the State Government shall complete settlement of rights, in term of the Scheduled Tribes and other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, if any, on the forest land diverted and submit the documentary evidence as prescribed by MoEF letter No.11-9/1988-FC(Pt.) dated 03.08.2009, in support thereof.

In the Stage-I approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 accorded by MoEF for diversion of the Chhatrasal coal block, it has specifically been stipulated by MoEF that before the grant of Stage-II clearance, the MoEF should be fully satisfied that all Forest Rights Act (FRA) requirements have been fully complied with and no further FRA complaints remain.