

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:24
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2013
CLEARANCE TO COAL BLOCKS
Rao Shri Nama Nageswara

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of coal blocks allocated to the public and private sector companies are pending for environment and forest clearance;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the present status of each of these blocks;
- (c) the quantum of coal production envisaged from these projects and the likely drop in production for want of clearance during the 12th Five Year Plan;
- (d) whether the Government has taken any initiative to speed up the grant of environment and forest clearances to the coal blocks allocated to the public and private sector companies; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SRI PRAKASH JAYASWAL)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN ANSWER TO PARTS (A) TO (E) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 24 FOR REPLY ON 26.02.2013 ASKED BY SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO.

(a)&(b): The responsibility of obtaining the Environment and Forest clearance is that of the allocatee company. The Government periodically monitors the progress of development of the blocks. The allocatees submit a status report every quarter. Based on the latest status report received from the Coal Controller Organisation the details of coal blocks where environment and forest clearance are pending is as per Annexure

(c): The 12th plan envisages production of 100 million tonnes of coal from the captive blocks in the terminal year 2016-17. The production from captive coal blocks during the current year up to December 2012 is 27.66 million tonnes as against a target of 42.0. As obtaining clearances is a continuous process and production would also depend on land acquisition and other factors, it is not possible to assess any drop in production at this stage.

(d)&(e): In order to address the Environmental & Development issues relating to Coal Mining and other Development Projects, Government has constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) on 3rd February 2011. Based on the decisions of GoM, the Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has formulated a policy for parallel processing of applications for Environmental Clearance & Forest Clearance (EC & FC); MoEF initiated a proposal to open four Regional offices to ensure timely processing of proposals for forest clearances; MoEF has requested State & UT Governments to strengthen the Nodal Offices with adequate staff and infrastructure; MoEF agreed to initiate action for online processing of EC & FC proposals; MoEF has agreed to consider the enhancement in the production capacity of the existing mines up to 25% without the need for public hearing. Further, GoM has also recommended for evolving an incentive mechanism in terms of special plan grants for State Department of Forest for early processing of forest clearances. Further, in order to expedite the decisions within the Government particularly in case of large projects in the infrastructure sector which are held up due to delays in grant of clearances/approvals by the various authorities, Government has constituted Cabinet Committee on investment in January, 2013.