

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:950
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2013
CLEARANCE TO COAL BLOCKS
Kumar Shri P.

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is considering to examine the issue of environmental clearance granted to coal blocks put up for auction in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN)

(a) to (c) Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) has made prior environmental clearance (EC) mandatory for certain developmental projects, including coal mining, through Environment Impact Assessment notification issued on 14th September 2006. Steps taken by the Ministry to fast track the EC process include continuous monitoring of status of pending projects, regular meetings of Expert Appraisal Committees, etc.