

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2325
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2013
EXPLORATION OF COAL BLOCKS
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has an ambitious programme for exploration of 42 coal blocks identified for offer through competitive bidding during the 12th Five Year Plan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Ministry has taken up the matter with the Ministry of Environment and Forests to change its existing guidelines for exploration with enhance density of boreholes as majority of these coal blocks fall under the forest areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Ministry of Environment and Forests thereto?

Answer

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

(a) and (b) A programme for exploration of 37 coal blocks included in the total 42 blocks has been drawn for exploration during the 12th Five Year Plan. The names of these blocks are as under:-

S.No Block

1 Mahajanbari

2 Chandrabila

3 Gandh- Bahera-Ujhaini

4 Domra-Panagarh

5 Saidu South

6 Saidu North

7 Jilga-Barapalli

8 Barjora South

9 Bishtupur

10 Pachwara South

- 11 Tamla North
- 12 Kalyanpur-Badalpara
- 13 Kundanali Laburi
- 14 Tentuloi
- 15 Sarapali Nuapara
- 16 Dharma
- 17 Duni
- 18 Surajnagar
- 19 Kabitirtha
- 20 Badam Dip Side
- 21 Tambia
- 22 Patasi
- 23 Bicharpur East
- 24 Dahegaon Dhapevada
- 25 Dhau North
- 26 Kalambi-Kalmeshwar
- 27 Bicharpur North
- 28 Shahdol
- 29 Karkoma
- 30 Mohan
- 31 Meguli

32 Sursa

33 Brahamani

34 Banai

35 Bhalumuda

36 Devcha-Pachami+Devanganj-Harisinha

37 Gawa

(c) & (d) : The matter was taken up with Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) who agreed to allow exploration in 3 forest covered coal blocks namely Bijul in Singrauli Coalfields (Madhya Pradesh), Chirra North in Mand-Raigarh Coalfields (Chattisgarh) and Baitharani East in Talcher Coalfields (Orissa) on trial basis to study the impact of such exploration on the flora and fauna on account of enhanced bore hole density.

A meeting of Forest Advisory Committee (FAC) was held in MOEF on 16.8.2012 wherein the findings of joint impact assessment of all the three blocks were presented and FAC was briefed about the necessity of revisiting the existing guidelines. However, FAC did not consider it necessary to revisit the guidelines and decided to take expeditious decision on case to case basis for all the proposals pending for forest clearance as well as future proposals.