

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4807
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2013
UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION PROJECT
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has recommended the proposal of Gujarat Industries Power Company Ltd. for allocation of South of Rajparddi block in Gujarat for its Underground Coal Gasification project with ONGC, under State PSU's dispensation;
- (b) if so, the details and status thereof; and
- (c) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The Government had received a request from M/s Gujarat Industries Power Company Limited (GIPCL) for allocation of South of Rajparddi Block in Gujarat for Underground Coal Gasification project with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

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.