

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1855
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013
GRANT OF LIGNITE MINING LEASE
Kanubhai Patel Jayshreeben

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received proposals from the State Government of Gujarat for prior approval of the Ministry for grant of lignite mining lease rights in the State including districts of Kutch and Bharuch;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of the said proposals; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to expedite the proposals?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): Proposals from the State Government of Gujarat for prior approval on GMDC's mining lease application in the districts of Kutch and Bharuch have been received.

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. The Central Government, on 29.07.2013 has already invited applications for allocation of suitable lignite blocks to the State Government companies/corporations located in the state of Gujarat & Rajasthan.