

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1978
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2013
MORGA II COAL BLOCK
Premajibhai Dr. Solanki Kiritbhai

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government/Coal India Ltd. had received a request from Government of Gujarat for grant of allotment of an alternative coal block in place of Morga-II, for consideration;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the time by which the alternative allocation would be made in favour of Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation?

Answer

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

(a) to (c): The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) initially rejected the application for forest clearance of Morga-II coal block for grant of Prospecting Licence and suggested for allocation of alternative coal block. However, after careful consideration of the proposal of the State Government of Chhattisgarh and on the basis of the decision of the Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted to consider the environmental and developmental issues relating to coal mining and other developmental projects, MoEF subsequently granted permission for exploratory drilling. There is no provision in the existing Rules under which allocation of alternate coal block could be considered.