

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3827

ANSWERED ON:18.02.2014

LIGNITE MINING LEASE TO GMDC

Chaudhary Shri Haribhai Parthibhai; Vasava Shri Mansukhbhai D.

**Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Neyveli Lignite Corporation has received any request for allotment of a coal block in favour of Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether prior approval by Ministry of Coal to GMDC for grant of Lignite Mining Lease in Lakhpat is required; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which all the requisite approvals would be accorded for the grant of the coal block to GMDC?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) has informed that no request for allotment of coal block in favour of M/s Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation (GMDC) has been received. However, in response to Notice Inviting Applications, dated 29/7/13 issued by Ministry of Coal, GMDC has applied for 3 Lignite Blocks namely, Panandhrow Extension, Barkandam and Ghala. Applications are under process.

(c) & (d) The Government of Gujarat had requested for allocation of lignite blocks as well as approval of Mining Leases for several lignite bearing areas including Lakhpat-Dhedhadi lignite area. Coal and lignite blocks are allocated under Section 3 of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 whereas the prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mining lease of the allocated coal/lignite blocks are given under the relevant provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Allocation of a lignite block under Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 is a prerequisite before the prior approval of the Central Government is accorded for grant of mining lease under the relevant provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. The above mentioned lignite block has not been allocated by the Ministry of Coal to the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (GMDCL). Hence, prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mining lease does not arise.