

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2544  
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2015  
GMDC MINING LEASE APPLICATION  
Chudasama Shri Rajeshbhai Naranbhai

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

(a) whether the Government of Gujarathas recommended a proposal for prior approval of the Union Government for GMDC mining lease application for lignite silica, sand and ball clay over an area of 854 hectares at Villages Damlia, Padal, Rajpur and Moran, TalukaJhagadia in district Bharuch during 2007; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER, COAL AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) & (b): Proposals from the State Government of Gujarat for prior approval on Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited's mining lease application in the district of Bharuch were received.

Coal and lignite blocks were earlier allocated in pursuance of Section 3 of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 as per the prevailing procedure of the Screening Committee/Government Dispensation at that time. The prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mining lease of the allocated coal/ lignite blocks were given under the relevant provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. The above mentioned lignite bearing area in Bharuch District was not allocated by the Ministry of Coal to the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (GMDCL).

Under the amended provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules made thereunder, the Central Government on 29.07.2013 has invited applications for allocation of 5 lignite blocks to the State Government companies/corporations located in the States of Gujarat & Rajasthan.