

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3686
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2015
UNDERGROUND COAL GASIFICATION PROJECT
Raju Shri Gokaraju Ganga

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) in India was taken up under technical collaboration with erstwhile USSR and Merta Road Lignite deposit was found technically feasible by Soviet experts for taking up as pilot scale study but the pilot appraisal could not be established in India;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons for not carrying out the study; and
- (c) the measures taken by the Government for carrying out commercial exploitation of UCG?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

- (a) & (b): The Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) was taken-up as a national project in the early 80's with guidance from Soviet experts. However, on the apprehension of contamination of ground water, the Science & Technology (S&T) Project in the selected pilot project site of Merta Road Lignite deposit for ascertaining the techno – economic viability of the project was not pursued further.
- (c): Need for a policy for development of Underground Coal Gasification from unexplored coal and lignite bearing areas in the country has been assessed. The policy has not been finalized.