

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:294  
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2015  
COAL BLOCKS IN DENSE FOREST AREAS  
Charitra Shri Ram;Maragatham Smt. K.

**Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether his Ministry has sought to take off auctioning of certain coal blocks located in dense forests that have been classified as `inviolate`;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the location of such coal blocks;
- (c) whether the Ministry has also sought reduction in the size and lease period of a coal block located in Changlang district of Arunachal Pradesh and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether his Ministry has taken up the aforesaid issues with the Ministry of Coal; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Ministry of Coal on the said issues and the present status of the said coal blocks?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE. ( SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 294 BY SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM AND SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD REGARDING 'COAL BLOCKS IN DENSE FOREST AREAS' DUE FOR REPLY ON 17.03.2015

(a) to (e) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change while sending comments on 74 coal blocks listed in Schedule-II and Schedule-III of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014 furnished following comments to Ministry of Coal in respect of 3 Coal Blocks falling within proposed inviolate areas based on the draft parameters:

(i) In case of the Namchik-Namphuk Coal Block, which is located in the inviolate forests, area of the block may be reduced to non-forest land within the block, if any, and 39.02 hectares of forest land for which stage-II FC has already been accorded and the non-forest land, before the block is listed for auction. It may also be stipulated in the tender documents that even in the said 39.02 hectares of forest land mining shall be permitted during the current lease period only. The mining in the said block shall be phased out with expiry of the mining lease.

(ii) Though the Marki-Mangli-II block is located in a working mine consisting of a group of blocks, mining in Marki-Mangli -II block has not been started. The said block may not therefore be auctioned as the block is located in inviolate forest area.

(iii) Though Stage-II FC to Mahan Coal Block has already been accorded, the mining in the block has not started. The said block may not therefore be auctioned as the block is located in inviolate forest area.

It has been informed by the Ministry of Coal that keeping in view the afore-mentioned comments, Namchik- Namphuk (Arunachal Pradesh), Marki-Mangli-II (Maharashtra) and Mahan (Madhya Pradesh) coal blocks were withdrawn from the auction process for the time being.