

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:723
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2014
PROJECT ON COAL METHANE
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any project on coal methane in Nagaur-Bikaner Basin is being implemented;
- (b) if so, the quantum of lignite reserves in this coal methane block;
- (c) the reasons for not expediting the work keeping in view the huge reserves of coal/lignite in Nagaur-Bikaner basin; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to explore lignite reserves in the basin?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Till date, no Coal Bed Methane (CBM) block has been carved out under any CBM round in the Nagaur- Bikaner basin by Directorate General of Hydrocarbon/ Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. However, Directorate of Petroleum of Rajasthan State had carried out a study for technical evaluation/ approval of drilling core holes and geophysical logging under Coal Bed Methane R & D project in the Bikaner area. Under this project 4 core holes were to be drilled. However, 2 core holes drilled in the Nagaur area failed to establish the presence of lignite deposits. The remaining two core holes were not taken up for drilling and the project was closed.

(d) To accelerate the pace of regional exploration for Coal and lignite in the country, the Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India has instituted a Programme called "Promotional Exploration Scheme" and fund is being provided to the exploration agencies from the year 1990 onwards for the identification of potential lignite areas for future development. Under this programme, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) & Geological Survey of India (GSI) have been carrying out the exploration works. For the XII Plan period, a target of 2.93 lakh metres of drilling was identified for promotional exploration in lignite areas. Out of this, 1.59 lakh metres of drilling has been completed by October 2014.