

Title: Need to review the decision regarding allotment of coal blocks of Western Coalfields Limited for power production in Karnataka .

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (CHANDRAPUR): Sir, there has been an agreement among the Bengal EMTA, Coal India Limited (CIL) and the Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) that the WCL shall not exploit coal in seven blocks of coal reserves and instead these seven blocks shall be allotted through the Union Ministry of Coal to Bengal EMTA for supply of coal to Karnataka Power Company Limited's Thermal Power Plant coming up at Bellary in Karnataka. Thus, the proposed power plants of NTPC in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra and the Bhadrawati Power Plant of Central India Power Company there, shall not be getting coal, thus affecting badly the power production. Maharashtra is already facing a shortage of power to the tune of 3000 MW.

There is need to review this decision of allotment of coal blocks of WCL for power production in Karnataka and instead to reserve these coal blocks for proposed power plants in Chandrapur District of Maharashtra, where thousands of acres of land have already been acquired for the proposed power plants and the water storage. The *Bhoomi Pujan* was also performed by the then Prime Minister. This deal also needs to be inquired into by an independent agency, preferably by the CBI to find out the truth.