

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Planning for promotion of underground coal gasification**

1396. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government is planning to promote underground coal gasification;

(b) whether Government is allowing global explorers to sell the gas from their operations at market prices besides allowing them a seven year tax holiday along with a slew of financial incentives and if so, the details thereof? and

(c) whether Government would ensure fair play and transparency in this process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) With a view to developing Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) potential in our country for energy production, Government has notified UCG as one of the end uses under captive coal mining policy. Five lignite blocks and two coal blocks of estimated reserves 950.5 Million Tonnes had been identified for offer to various companies for taking up UCG projects and the offer of these blocks is under process as per the amended provisions of Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act.

Proposal to extract oil from coal

1397. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government has any proposal to extract oil from coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the techniques experimented for the purpose;

(c) whether some corporates have also shown interest to set up projects in collaboration with foreign companies to produce oil from coal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the oil extracted from coal is likely to be available in the country?