

(b) the details of coal and lignite blocks identified, so far, in the country for this purpose;

(c) whether Government has given contracts to joint ventures/multi-national companies for implementing these projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (d) The Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) Technology has not been established in India. To expedite the UCG development in India, Ministry of Coal (MoC) has issued Gazette Notification No. 868 dt. 12th July, 2007 wherein the production of syngas obtained through coal gasification (Underground and Surface) and coal liquefaction to be end uses for the purposes of Coal Mines Nationalization Act.

Subsequently, CMPDIL in consultation with GSI, SCCL, DGMS & NLC identified five lignite blocks and two coal blocks for UCG purposes. In addition to this, CIL has also identified two coal blocks for taking up UCG in their command area. Recently Ministry of Coal has identified Vastan lignite block for development of UCG in Gujarat. However, no contract has been awarded.

Coal block allocation policy

314. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is coming out with a coal block allocation policy soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what made the Government to come out with a new policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) To make the process of allocation of Coal blocks demonstrably transparent and objective in the allocation of coal blocks, the MMDR Act was amended on 09.09.2010 and 'the Auction by Competitive Bidding of Coal Mines Rules, 2012' were notified on 02.02.2012 to authorize Government of India to select for the purpose of grant of mining rights in respect of area containing coal (i) through auction by competitive bidding to a company engaged in permitted end use activities; (ii) for allocation to Government Company; and (iii) to a company that has been awarded a power project on the basis of competitive bids for tariff.