

**Transfer of coal mining areas of GIPCL**

1871. SHRI BHARATSINH PRABHATSINH PARMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gujarat Government has recommended 7830.77 hectares area for under ground coal gasification mining lease of Gujarat Industries Power Company Ltd. (GIPCL) to the Ministry;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government has recommended a block of 2300 hectares area only; and

(c) if so, by when the remaining area would be recommended to GIPCL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) The Government had received a request from M/s Gujarat Industries Power Company Limited (GIPCL) for allocation of South of Rajparadi Block in Gujarat for Underground Coal Gasification project with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC).

The Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2010 provides for grant of reconnaissance permit, prospecting licence or mining lease in respect of an area containing coal and lignite through auction by competitive bidding, on such terms and conditions as may be prescribed. This, would however, not be applicable in the following cases:

- where such area is considered for allocation to a Government company or corporation for mining or such other specified end use;
- where such area is considered for allocation to a company or corporation that has been awarded a power project on the basis of competitive bids for tariff (including Ultra Mega Power Projects).

The Government has notified the "Auction by Competitive Bidding of Coal Mines Rules, 2012" on 2nd February, 2012. Further, the notification on the commencement of the said Amendment Act, 2010 has also been notified by the Ministry of Mines on 13th February, 2012. The coal/lignite blocks can only be allocated under the amended Act and above mentioned Rules.

**Coal for thermal power projects in Rajasthan**

†1872. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.