

Coal Mine Methane (CMM) Clearing House in India. Accordingly, the CBM Clearing House was established at Central Mine Planning & Design Institute (CMPDI), Ranchi in November, 2008. The objective of the Clearing House was to undertake activities to support the mitigation of Greenhouse Emissions from coal mines in India and to act as a repository of methane based information in the country and facilitate formulation of projects for utilization of methane recovered from mines.

- (ii) A Memorandum of Understanding was signed on 3rd October, 2008 between New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization of Japan (NEDO), the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, Government of India (MOF/DEA), the Ministry of Coal, Government of India (MOC) and Monnet Ispat & Energy Ltd. (MIEL) for joint implementation of a model project for implementation of highly efficient pilot coal preparation technology project for setting up a coal washery with a raw coal throughput capacity of 2.2 million tonnes per annum in Angul District, Block Chhendipada, Odisha.
- (iii) Two Studies were instituted by European Union under Energy Dialogue on washability of low volatile medium coking coal; and on exploitation of steeply inclined seams in North Eastern Coalfields of India.
- (iv) CMPDIL has entered into an MoU with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization of Australia on June 2013 for cooperation in research in various technology related areas including 3D seismic survey for coal exploration, Drill hole geophysical logging and data analysis, Underground mine ventilation, Mine gas capture and utilization, Mine fire prevention and control, Underground strata control, Pit wall and overburden dump stability, Coal quality control, Coal cleaning and preparation, Coal to liquids technology, Coal performance impacts on coal gasification and related syngas technologies, Coal blending for combustion and gasification applications, coal mineral matter, ash and slag properties and their management and utilization, Underground mining technologies and Mine reclamation and rehabilitation.

Mining application of GMDCL

3382. SHRI CHUNIBHAI KANJIBHAI GOHEL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Gujarat Government has recommended a proposal for prior approval of the Ministry for Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited (GMDCL) mining lease application of lignite bearing area of 1251 hectares in district Bharuch in 1999; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Proposals from the State Government of Gujarat for prior approval on GMDC's mining lease application in the district of Bharuch were received.

Coal and lignite blocks were earlier allocated in pursuance of Section 3 of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 whereas the prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mining lease of the allocated coal/lignite blocks are given under the relevant provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Allocation of a lignite block under Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 is a prerequisite before the prior approval of the Central Government is accorded for grant of mining lease under the relevant provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Since the above mentioned lignite bearing area in Bharuch District was not allocated by the Ministry of Coal to the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (GMDCL), the question of prior approval of the Central Government for grant of mining lease for this area does not arise.

Under the amended provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Rules made thereunder, the Central Government on 29.07.2013 has invited applications for allocation of 5 lignite blocks to the State Government companies/corporations located in the State of Gujarat and Rajasthan.

Coal regulator mechanism

3383. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T. : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently the Cabinet has approved the coal regulator mechanism;

(b) to what extent setting up of the regulator helps in infusing transparency in coal pricing, mining operations, etc.;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in spite of regulator finalizing the price, the Ministry would have the final say; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) After detailed consultations with various stake holders as well as concerned Ministries/Department, the proposal of draft Coal Regulatory Authority Bill, 2013 was