

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1315
ANSWERED ON 19.12.2022

Kahalgaon coal block in the State of Bihar

1315. PROF. MANOJ KUMAR JHA:

Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the coal block discovered in the Kahalgaon region in Bhagalpur, Bihar along with the auction process;
- (b) whether Government is also mining for other minerals in the region;
- (c) whether it is a fact that villages in the Kahalgaon region will have to face environmental consequences due to mining activities, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government plans to take any measures to minimize the environmental impact of coal mining on the adjacent villages; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) Geological Survey of India (GSI) carries out mapping and exploration activities for various mineral commodities including energy minerals (coal and lignite) in different parts of the country with an aim to find out potential mineralized locales as well as to augment resources.

GSI has not explored any coal block in the name of Kahalgaon Coal Block in Bihar. However, 15 to 20 km east of Kahalgaon, coal exploration has been carried out by GSI in different blocks in Bhagalpur District, Bihar during the period from 2013 to 2021. Details are given as under-

Sl. No.	Details of coal exploration in different blocks/areas/sectors in Bhagalpur District, Bihar
1	Mirjagaon Area
2	Rajgaon Block
3	Govindpur Block
4	Gokulmathura Block
5	Shrinagar Block
6	Lakshmipur Block
7	Lakshmipur North Block
8	Hatmarwa Block
9	Shivnarayan-pur Area

Two MMDR coal blocks, namely, Pirpainti Barahat & Mandar Parvat, earlier approved for allotment to BCCL in 2018, have been surrendered to MoC in 2021.

Ministry of Coal has put one coal block namely, Mandar Parvat located in Bhagalpur District, Bihar for auction in the ongoing 6th Tranche of commercial auction.

(b) Government of Bihar has informed that Government is not mining for other minerals in the region.

(c) to (e) At present there is no coal mining activities present in Kahalgaon region. Before opening a coal mine at any location, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study is undertaken for obtaining Environment Clearance (EC).
