

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2785
TO BE ANSWERED ON 06.08.2025

ALLOTMENT OF UNUSED COAL BLOCKS FOR RESEARCH PURPOSE

2785. SHRI MANICKAM TAGORE B:
SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH:
SHRI SURESH KUMAR SHETKAR:

Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of list of all unused coal blocks currently identified and available for research purposes across the country;
- (b) the criteria adopted by the Government to designate specific coal blocks as suitable for research activities including geological, environmental and logistical factors considered during this evaluation;
- (c) the number of coal blocks that have been allotted to research institutions, universities, or private researchers during the last five years along with the scope of the research conducted;
- (d) the details of the application and approval process for researchers seeking access to unused coal blocks;
- (e) the measures put in place to ensure that research activities in these coal blocks comply with environmental protection and safety standards;
- (f) the manner in which the Government facilitate collaboration between coal researchers and mining companies for the development of innovative coal utilization technologies; and
- (g) whether the Government has conducted any impact assessment of research activities on the ecological and social environment of these unused coal blocks, if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER
MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) : At present, no unused coal block has been identified and allotted for research purposes by the Government. However, researches are being done by coal companies on active coal blocks. Further, CIL is conducting R&D work on underground coal gasification in abandoned coal mine of ECL.

(b): At present, there is no criteria specified to designate specific coal blocks as suitable for research activities including geological, environmental and logistical factors.

(c): During the last five years, no coal block has been allotted to research institutions, universities, or private researchers. However, for active coal blocks, different research activities are taken up by coal companies.

(d): At present, no application or approval process has been prescribed for researchers for seeking access to unused coal blocks.

(e) to (g): Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.
