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Title: Need to allocate Coal blocks to Odisha state PSUs for industrial transformation of the State.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): As a matter of policy, Odisha has time and again been requesting the Ministry of Coal to give due consideration first to the requirement of coal for the state based industries through State PSUs. In fact, for the on-going industrial transformation of Odisha, the State needs additional supply of 250 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) of coal for the Power Plants and Steel Plants now under installation against which only about 50 MTPA is being made available.

Though, Ministry of coal has since been requested for allocation of at least 7000 MT of coal reserves to the Mining PSUs of the State under Government dispensation route, allocation of coal blocks from the state has been done to other State PSUs ignoring the requirement of coal for these ongoing projects. In fact, for four coal blocks notified for allocation vide ministry of coal notification dated 31/12/2012, only one coal block has been allotted to OTPCL, a State Power PSU whereas remaining three including Chandrabilla coal block was allotted to other States PSU/Central PSUs inspite of the fact that allocation of all these blocks was recommended for allocation to the State PSUs including OPGC.

I would urge upon the Government to take urgent steps to allocate coal blocks in favour of Odisha State PSUs on priority basis.