

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 07.03.2011
ANSWERED ON
CIL VENTURE IN SOUTH AFRICA .

147

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :-

(a):whether Government has recently asked South Africa to consider giving more mineral assets to the Coal India Limited (CIL) in view of its growing coal requirements to fire its thermal power turbines ;

(b):if so, the response of the South African Government/firms in this regard; and

(c): whether the demand-supply gap of coal is increasing day by day and to what extent CIL's efforts to acquire coal mines in foreign countries are going to bridge the gap between demand and supply of coal ?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF COAL

(SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) to (c):A Statement is laid on the Table of the House .

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No.147 for 7.3.2011

(a) &(b): During the visit of the official Indian delegation led by the Minister of Coal to South Africa in January, 2011, various issues relating to improvement of bilateral relations between India and South Africa, in the field of coal sector, were discussed. During this visit, the South African Government was informed that Coal India Limited (CIL) is interested in coal properties in South Africa and both the countries could consider setting up joint ventures in this area. However, the formal response of South African Government in this regard is yet to be received.

(c):The demand of coal, as a fuel for the projected capacity addition of power generation and long term demand of the Steel and other sectors has continuously been increasing over the years. Coal India Limited (CIL) is also looking at various alternatives like acquisition of coal assets abroad as well as long term off-take agreements with coal producers. Apart from allocation of two coal blocks by the Government of Mozambique, no other mines have, however, so far been acquired by CIL abroad. It would as such not be possible at this stage to estimate the extent to which the demand-supply gap could be bridged through this initiative.