

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 856
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2017

Exploration of new coal reserves

856. SHRIMATI THOTA SEETHARAMA LAKSHMI:

Will the **MINISTER OF COAL** be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government is taking up measures to expand coal exploration in the country, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether Government has taken cognizance to the fact that India's coal reserves will be exhausted in a few decades, if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and
- (c) the details of the steps being taken to address the issue?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF COAL AND RAILWAYS
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): In order to expand coal exploration in the country, apart from the Regional exploration taken up by Geological Survey of India, Ministry of coal is also funding exploration activities through two Central Sector Scheme namely:

1. Promotional (Regional) Exploration of Coal & Lignite
2. Detailed Exploration in Non-CIL/Captive Mines blocks

Promotional (Regional) Exploration is for identifying new coal resources, whereas the Detailed Exploration in Non-CIL/Captive blocks is to bring the resources in "Proved Category" which is suitable for Project Planning.

In 2016-17, 1.04 lakh meters of Promotional (Regional) Drilling and 3.09 lakh meters of detailed drilling has been carried out. It has been projected that 1.17 lakh meters of Promotional (regional) drilling & 3.92 lakh meters of Detailed drilling will be carried out in 2017-18.

(b)& (c): The total estimated quantum of coal resources in the country is 315.149 billion tonnes as per "The inventory of Geological Resources of Indian Coal" (as on 01.04.2017), prepared by the Geological Survey of India. The total coal extracted from the coalfields of India during 2016-17 is 655.31 million tonnes and since 1950 upto 2016-17 is around 14438.22 million tonne.

Every year about 3 to 5 billion tonnes of resources are being added through fresh exploration to the Coal Inventory of India. At present rate of exploitation, coal reserves will last for considerable period.
