GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 1634
ANSWERED ON 01.08.2022

Exploration of new coal reserves

1634. SHRI NIRAJ DANGI:

Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is working on any policy to explore new coal reserves, if so, the details thereof;

(b) the efforts made by Government to regulate the consumption and use of coal in the country; and

(c) the details of the policy measures taken by Government to deal with any shortage of coal in order to maintain the level of coal consumption?

ANSWER

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

(a): There is one sub-scheme i.e. Promotional (Regional) exploration under Central Sector Scheme of "Exploration of Coal & Lignite" to explore new coal reserves in the country. The total length of drilling carried out during 2020-21 and 2021-22 in regional coal blocks through Central Sector Scheme (CSS) funding are given in below table-

Financial Year	Drilling meterage (Lakh. m)
2020-21	1.12
2021-22	1.55

The total new coal resources added by Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) through submitted Geological Reports, during the year 2020-21 and 2021-22, are given in below table-

Financial Year	Coal Resources (Billion Tonne)
2020-21	1.33
2021-22	5.71

CMPDIL has also started regional exploration to find out new coal reserve through National Mineral Exploration Trust *(* NMET) funding from 2021-22. CMPDIL has drilled 0.025 Lakh.m of drilling through NMET funding during 2021-22.

Geological Survey of India *(*GSI*)* is also undertaking Regional Exploration of Coal under Ministry of Mines for identifying new coal resources.

(b)&(c): Methodology for auction of coal and lignite mines/blocks for sale of coal/lignite on revenue sharing basis has been issued on 28.05.2020 and modified vide order dated 24.11.2021. Auction of Coal blocks for sale of coal would make maximum coal available in the market at the earliest.

Further, in order to ramp up domestic production of coal, several steps have been taken up by the Government of which the major steps include the following:

- Auction of coal blocks to private parties including captive power projects.
- Commercial Auction of coal blocks on revenue sharing basis.
- Allowing sale of coal or lignite of captive mines up to 50 percent after meeting the requirement of the end use plant inked with the mine.
- 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) for commercial mining.

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