

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *124
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19/12/2022

Underutilisation of coal mines in the country

***124. Smt. Ranjeet Ranjan:**

Will the Minister of **COAL** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that as of October 2022, only two thirds of the country's coal mines are being utilised to their capacity;
- (b) whether Government plans to develop 99 new coal projects with a production target of 427 million tonnes per year, despite the underutilisation of the existing coal mines;
- (c) whether Government has examined or intends to examine the issue of underutilisation of these existing coal mines;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, including measures to address the aforementioned issue of underutilisation; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

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

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement in Reply to the Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 124 to be answered on 19.12.2022 regarding Underutilization of coal mines in the country

(a): Coal mines are operated as per the approved mining plan. Considering last 5 years average, CIL's overall system capacity utilization is near about 80%. The capacity utilization of SCCL has been near about 82-90% and capacity utilization of NLCIL has been near about 85% - 100% as per mine plan.

(b): As per demand projections, coal mines are planned and its operations run to ensure energy security of the country. Development of new mines are also required towards Atmanirbhar Bharat to reduce import dependence. Coal demand of 1500 MTPA is projected by various agencies by 2030. Some redundancy in mines' capacity has to be in-built to sustain production at optimum levels when faced with unforeseen and unavoidable situations, such as adverse weather conditions, local & operational problems, land acquisition, geological surprises and variations etc.

(c) to (e): Coal mines are running at optimal capacity as per their mining plans. Operations of coal mines are monitored by the Government on regular basis.
