

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*131**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 19/12/2022**

**MEASURES TO INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY OF EXISTING MINES**

**\*131. SMT. JEBI MATHER HISHAM:**

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

- (a) whether report of Global Energy Monitor (GEM) states that India's extant coal mines are chronically underutilised, with 36 per cent capacity in operational mines going unused;
- (b) if so, whether Government is planning to increase efficiency of existing mines, rather than plan to develop 99 new coal projects with projected 427 MTPA capacity; and
- (c) the manner in which resolution to achieve net zero emissions by 2070 will be realised since 36 per cent of capacity at operating mines goes unused, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

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

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

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**Statement referred to in reply to part (a) to (c) in respect of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 131 for 19.12.2022 asked by Smt. Jebi Mather Hisham regarding “Measures to increase the efficiency of existing mines”.**

(a): Coal mines are operated as per the approved mining plan and coal production is monitored against the level given in the mining plan for that particular year specially in pre-PRC attainment stage and during tapering before closing. All coal mines are running at optimal capacity as per their mining plans. 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. In-built redundant capacity also considered. Prematurely comparing the production of a mine with PRC while the mine is still in pre-PRC stage misleads one to believe that the capacity is underutilized. For instance, Talabira Mines. PRC is slated for 8th year since mine opening with gradual progress of production till then. Mine opening permission was granted on 29 March 2019 and against the mine plan level set at 1.25 mtpa for year 2020-21 it achieved actual coal production at 6.35 mtpa. This mine is achieving production well above the level given for a particular year in the mining plan for the pre-PRC stage. As such, the referred report of Global Energy Monitor (GEM) cannot be relied upon.

(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 the year 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): Several steps have been taken to reduce emission from coal mining such as First Mile Connectivity, massive afforestation and RE projects.

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