

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 832
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023

Usage of coal in the country

832. SHRI S. SELVAGANABATHY:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the demand for coal has increased to meet the energy requirements of the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons for not increasing the domestic coal production, as increasing the production can reduce the dependence on imported coal and save foreign currency;
- (c) whether it is proposed to reduce the use of coal globally to save the environment; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for the increase in use of coal in the country?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): India is the world's fastest growing major economy and is expected to become the world's third largest economy in the coming years. With the rapid industrial growth, the demand for coal has increased over the last decade and will continue to increase in the near future. In order to meet the energy requirements of our nation, the Government has undertaken several initiatives to scale up domestic coal production. Therefore, as against the increased coal demand, domestic coal production has also increased. In 2022-23, the domestic coal production increased by 14.77% to reach 893.19 MT from 778.21 MT in 2021-22. Further, in the current financial year, till November 2023, the country has produced about 591.40 MT of coal as compared to 524.72 MT during the same period of last year with a growth of about 13%. As a result of increase in production, the coal import has declined by 5% during April to September 2023 in the current financial year compare to the same period of last financial year. This shows a reduction in import dependency of coal in the country.

Further, the following measures have been taken by the Government to enhance the production of coal in the country:

- i. Identification and development of new Coal blocks, including through captive and commercial route.
- ii. Enactment of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2021 for enabling captive mine owners (other than atomic minerals) to sell up to 50% of their annual mineral (including coal) production in the open market after meeting the requirement of the end use plant linked with the mine in such manner as may be prescribed by the Central Government on payment of such additional amount.

iii Single Window Clearance portal for the coal sector to speed up the operationalization of coal mines.

iv. Project Monitoring Unit for handholding of coal block allottees for obtaining various approvals/clearances for early operationalization of coal mines.

v. Commercial auction of coal blocks on revenue sharing basis. Under commercial mining scheme, rebate of 50 % on final offer would be allowed for the quantity of coal produced earlier than scheduled date of production. Also, incentives on coal gasification or liquefaction (rebate of 50 % on final offer) have been granted.

vi. Coal India Limited is adopting Mass Production Technologies (MPT) in its Underground (UG) mines, mainly Continuous Miners (CMs), wherever feasible. Coal India Limited has also envisaged working large numbers of Highwalls (HW) mines in view of the availability of Abandoned/Discontinued mines. Coal India Limited is also planning large capacity UG mines wherever feasible.

vii. In Opencast (OC) mines, Coal India Limited has adopted State-of-the-Art technology through high capacity Excavators, Dumpers and Surface Miners.

viii. SCCL is expediting the activities to ground new 8 mines.

(c)&(d):Being an affordable source of energy with substantial reserve, coal is going to stay as major source of energy in the foreseeable future. Despite push for renewables, country will require base load capacity of coal-based generation for stability and also for energy security. India has committed to clean energy; the pace of transition to cleaner energy sources in India is to be viewed in the light of national circumstances, and principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, the transfer of climate finance and low-cost climate technologies.
