

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 833
TO BE ANSWERED ON 11.12.2023

Supply and demand of coal in the country

833 Shri R. Girirajan

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that according to Global Energy Monitor (GEM), India's coal mines use only two-thirds of the capacity with some large ones using only 1 per cent;
- (b) if so, details thereof and Government's stand on this;
- (c) whether 99 of country's coal mine projects are expected to yield 427 MTPA (million tonnes per annum), the under developments are unnecessary and opening new coal mines would not contribute to easing short-term supply-crunches; and
- (d) the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to match with supply and demand of coal in the country?

ANSWER

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

(a) & (b): 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 83-91% and capacity utilization of NLCIL has been near about 136% as per mine-plan.

(c) 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 building an Aatmanirbhar Bharat to reduce import dependence. Coal demand of about 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.

(d) The Govt has undertaken several initiatives in the last 9 years to boost coal production and meet its demand. Coal mines are running at optimal capacity as per their mining plans and production from new mines is helping scale up supplies to the industry. From 2008-09 to 2013-14, the CAGR of coal production has been only 2.8%; whereas 2014-15 onwards, CAGR of coal production has been 5.2%. Registering a record coal production in 2022-23, 893.19 MT coal was produced, as a result of opening new mines and this has helped in reducing coal imports. Earlier, around 17555 MW of capacity based on imported coal was installed. Now, no further capacity based on imported coal is planned. Owing to the increase in coal production over the last 9 years, CAGR of coal based generation has been 4.59% from 2014-15 to 2022-23.
