

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 672
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025**

Accountability and impact of delays in coal mining projects

672. Shri Sanjeev Arora:

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

(a) the number of coal mining projects that missed production deadlines in FY 2022-24 and the financial impact on the industry and economy, including lost revenue and increased import bills;

(b) the key reasons for these delays, including issues with land acquisition, clearances, or labour shortages, and whether better planning could have prevented them; and

(c) the steps taken to address accountability for these delays, including penalties or audits, and Government's plan to resolve the backlog of delayed projects?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

(a): The delay in projects for Coal India Limited (CIL), Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and captive/commercial mines are as under:

CIL: There were 39 and 40 projects running behind the schedule in FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 respectively.

SCCL: There were 2 projects each running behind the schedule in FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24.

Captive/Commercial mines: There were 40 and 34 projects running behind the schedule in FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24 respectively.

The focus of the Government is on increasing the domestic production of coal and to eliminate non-essential import of coal in the country. The all-India domestic coal production in the year 2023-2024 was 997.826 MT in comparison to 893.191 MT in the year 2022-2023 with the growth of about 11.71 % and during the period April 2024 to Nov 2024 the overall imports have reduced by 5.35%.

(b): Major constraints faced by the coal companies for missing the production deadlines are as under:

- i. Issues relating to land acquisition and Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R & R).
- ii. Delay in Forestry and Environmental Clearances.
- iii. Evacuation & logistics constraints.
- iv. Law & Order issues.

v. Adverse geo-mining conditions in some underground mines.

(c): The following steps are adopted to address the challenges and expedite project implementation:

i. As far as allocation of coal mines by the Nominated Authority, Ministry of Coal, is concerned, show cause notices are being given to the allottees in event of delay in starting coal production as well as for not achieving the target production. The reply of the allottees are being examined in the Ministry and wherever allottees are found to be responsible, they are being penalized in form of appropriation of Performance Bank Guarantee as per the provisions of Coal Mine Development and Production Agreement.

ii. Periodic reviews are taken at the level of Ministry of Coal with coal companies, stakeholder Ministries and the State Governments to expedite issues relating to land acquisition, processing of proposals of Environment Clearance / Forest Clearance (EC/FC), resolution of R&R issues, etc
