GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 72
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.07.2025

Coal expansion vs net-zero pledge

72 DR. SASMIT PATRA:

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

(a) the manner of new coal mining leases given post-COP26 and their estimated CO_2 footprint;
(b) the mechanism to phase these posts and details of high-carbon mines that are on notice; and
(c) whether there is a third-party emissions-tracking system tied to each lease?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF COAL & MINES
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (c) Mining leases for coal blocks are granted by the respective State Governments under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957), after allocation of the coal block by the Central Government. Since 2020, coal blocks have been allocated through commercial auctions under the provisions of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 and the MMDR Act, 2015, wherein there is no restriction on the end use of coal.

Prior to commencement of mining operations, the project proponent is required to obtain statutory clearances, including Environmental Clearance (EC), Forest Clearance (FC) where applicable, Consent to Establish (CTE), and Consent to Operate (CTO). A detailed Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP) are mandatory for securing EC, which includes assessment of environmental impact such as air quality, dust levels, and emissions.

The Government does not mandate estimation of the CO_2 footprint or classification of coal blocks based on carbon intensity at the time of allocation. Similarly, there is no specific mechanism in place for phasing out coal blocks based on carbon emissions. However, compliance with environmental conditions regulates emissions. There is currently no lease-specific third-party system for direct greenhouse gas emissions tracking tied to coal mining leases.

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