

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1636**  
ANSWERED ON- 15.12.2025

**UNDERGROUND COAL MINING**

1636 SHRI HARSH MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plans to promote underground coal mining in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps taken so far in this regard;
- (c) the percentage share of underground mining in the total coal production of the country at present; and
- (d) the initiatives being undertaken to modernize and improve safety in underground mining operations?

**ANSWER**

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

(a) &(b): Yes, the Ministry of Coal has planned 100 million tonnes of coal production from underground mines by 2030. Further in order to give an impetus to underground (UG) coal mining, the government has provided the following incentives in underground coal block auctions:

1. Reduction of the floor percentage of revenue share from 4% to 2%.
2. Complete waiver of the upfront amount.

However, such successful allocatees are not allowed to convert the underground mine to opencast mine or mixed mine at any stage during the life of the mine.

(c): The percentage share of underground mining in the total coal production during the current financial year (up to November 2025) is 3.16% (provisional).

(d) The steps taken to modernise and improve safety in UG coal mining operations include adoption of blast-free mass production technology by deployment of continuous miners, highwall miners and power support longwall; mechanised Strata Control System; use of gas chromatographs for mine air sample analysis; Use of environmental tele-monitoring system for continuous air monitoring; dust concentration assessment by using Personal Dust Samplers; formulation of a comprehensive Occupational Health and Safety Policy; preparation and implementation of Site Specific Risk Assessment-based Safety Management Plans and Principal Hazards Management Plans; formulation and compliance of Code of Practices (COPs) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs); and conducting safety audits of mines by multi-disciplinary Safety Audit teams.

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