

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4030**  
ANSWERED ON 30.03.2026

NATIONAL COAL LOGISTICS PLAN AND POLICY

**4030 # Dr. Kalpana Saini:**  
**Shri Narhari Amin:**

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the key objectives of the national coal logistics plan and policy, including provisions relating to rail-based evacuation, first-mile connectivity projects, and coastal or inland waterway transport;
- (b) the number of first-mile connectivity projects approved as of February, 2026;
- (c) the number of first-mile connectivity projects operationalised as of February, 2026;
- (d) the estimated coal handling capacity created through these projects;
- (e) whether Government has assessed the expected reduction in logistics costs, road transportation of coal, and associated environmental impacts as a result of this policy; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES  
(SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY)

- (a): The main objectives of the Coal Logistics Policy and Plan are as follows:
- i. Availability: To ensure availability of adequate coal loading and evacuation infrastructure at a nearby location through Conveyors, Rail, Road, Port, or Waterways connectivity.
  - ii. Optimization: To optimize total logistics cost, loading, and transportation, through rationalization of transport network with existing and any other proposed mode of transportation.
  - iii. Integration: To promote an interconnected multi-modal network of transport infrastructure & greener transportation initiatives for efficient movement of coal covering the entire country.
  - iv. Modernization: To promote greater adoption of information communication technology, upgraded infrastructure, use of artificial intelligence, drones, sensors, and innovation to improve efficiency and address the evolving needs of the sector.
  - v. Efficiency: To strive for a faster and more efficient loading and transportation system in order to reduce the turnaround time, leading to an increase in the time and cost efficiency of the system.

- vi. Inclusivity: To address needs of all stakeholders from the logistics supply and user side.

Measures taken to ensure seamless integration of coal transportation to the end-use plant under this plan are:

- i. Coal production planning of 1.5 BT by FY2030,
- ii. State-wise Origination-Destination mapping for coal evacuation,
- iii. 90% Mechanized coal loading and evacuation infrastructure implementation through 'First Mile Connectivity' (FMC) by FY2030,
- iv. 33 critical railway lines have been identified and taken up with the Ministry of Railways for future coal evacuation,
- v. Multi-modal transport involving conveyor, MGR, railways, inland waterways, and coastal, including Rail-Sea-Rail (R-S-R) route,
- vi. The additional wagon requirement has been taken up with the Ministry of Railways.

**(b), (c) and (d):** The Ministry of Coal has taken up 139 first-mile connectivity projects having a capacity of 1,319 million tonnes. Out of these, 65 projects with a capacity of 552 million tonnes are commissioned.

**(e) & (f):** The Coal Logistics Plan entails a strategic shift towards a railway-based system in First Mile Connectivity Projects, aiming for a reduction in rail logistics cost up to 14% and an estimated annual cost saving of about Rs. 21,000 crore by FY 2030. With implementation of the Coal Logistics Plan and Policy, the following impact is anticipated by FY 2030:

- i. Reduction in the share of road transportation and increase in share of rail-based coal transportation in the country,
- ii. Reduction in logistics cost with network optimization, and
- iii. Reduction in CO2 emissions.

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