

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*154
ANSWERED ON 03.08.2026

PROGRESS OF COMMERCIAL COAL MINING

***154. # SHRI MANAN KUMAR MISHRA:**

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

- (a) the progress made in the operationalisation of coal blocks auctioned for commercial mining, including the number of blocks in which production has commenced;
- (b) the production from commercial coal mines during the financial year 2025–26 and their contribution to domestic coal production; and
- (c) the steps taken to facilitate the timely development of commercial coal mines through improved statutory clearances and infrastructure support?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) IN RESPECT OF
RAJYA SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*154 FOR REPLY ON 03.08.2026
REGARDING PROGRESS OF COMMERCIAL COAL MINING ASKED BY SHRI
MANAN KUMAR MISHRA**

a) Since launch of commercial coal mine auctions in June 2020, a total of 141 coal blocks have been successfully auctioned and of these, 132 blocks have been allocated (as of 30.6.2026).

Out of the 132 allocated commercial coal blocks, 23 blocks have obtained Mine Opening Permission (MOP) after obtaining all required statutory clearances such as Environment Clearance, Forest Clearance, Mining Lease Execution etc. The remaining 109 blocks are at various stages of development/obtaining clearances required for operationalisation such as exploration, preparation of mining plan, obtaining environment clearance, forest clearance etc.

Of the 23 coal blocks, 15 blocks have commenced coal production as of 30.6.2026 and the remaining 8 blocks are at various stages of mine infrastructure development.

b) The overall total domestic coal production has crossed 1 Billion Tonnes (BT) in last two consecutive financial years i.e. FY 24-25 and FY 25-26. The total domestic coal production stood at 1039.81 MT in FY 2025-26 and the production from commercial coal mines was 26.12 MT. Coal production from commercial coal mines has increased from 1.15 MT in FY 2021-22 to 26.12 MT in FY 2025-26, reflecting sustained growth in domestic production.

c) Ministry is working towards achievement of Atmanirbhar Bharat and has taken several policy initiatives for ease of doing business aimed at expediting operationalization by eliminating certain approvals and introducing procedural reforms as follows:

- i. For accelerating exploration and resource utilization, the Ministry has Notified 44 private entities as Accredited Prospecting Agencies (APA) as per second proviso of Section 4(1) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMDR Act). Now, exploration carried out by APAs do not require to obtain prospecting license for exploration.
- ii. The Ministry has simplified the approval mechanism for exploration programs and Geological Reports. The requirement of obtaining Geological Report approval from the Ministry has been dispensed and peer review of Geological Report by another accredited agency shall be treated as approved.
- iii. The Ministry amended the Colliery Control Rules, 2025 to expedite Mine Opening Permission for coal block operationalization. With this amendment, Mine Opening Permission is no longer required from the Coal Controller organization and now, the Board of the concerned coal company is competent to accord the approval.
- iv. Coking Coal has been notified as a Critical and Strategic Mineral under the MMDR Act, 1957, thereby, expediting Environment Clearance and Forest Clearance process for Coking Coal Projects.
- v. The Ministry has introduced Single Window Clearance System for ease in obtaining clearances for mine operationalization.

- vi. 50% rebate on revenue share is provided for early operationalization till the scheduled date of operationalization of coal block for the quantity of coal produced earlier than the scheduled date of production.

Further, the Ministry is coordinating actively with the MoEF&CC for expediting the Forest Clearance and Environment clearance for operationalization of coal blocks. The MoEF&CC, based on the Ministry's persuasion, has undertaken several measures to streamline forest permissions required for Exploration, Environment Clearance (EC) and Forest Clearance (FC) for coal mine operationalization.
