

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION No. 235
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.01.2018**

Coal Reserves

***235. SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA:
KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH:**

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any estimate of the total requirement of coal for the country in the next decade and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the country has enough coal reserve to meet the requirement for the said period and if so, the total estimated coal reserves in the country at present;
- (c) whether the Government has identified the places where frequent coal thefts/pilferages take place during transportation;
- (d) if so, the details of such places along with the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) the other steps taken/ being taken by the Government to prevent wastage of coal in various manner and preserve the same for the next generation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COAL

(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

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

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 235 (15TH POSITION) ANSWERED ON 03/01/2018 ASKED BY SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA AND KUNWAR HARINABSH SINGH M.Ps. REGARDING COAL RESERVES.

(a): As per the Report of the Working Group on Coal & Lignite for formulation of 12th Five Year Plan (2012-17), the total coal demand projection was assessed at 1373 MT for 2021-22.

(b): As per “The inventory of Geological Resources of Indian Coal”, as on 01.04.2017 the total estimated quantum of coal reserves in the country is 315.149 billion tonnes. At present rate of exploitation, coal reserves will last for considerable period.

(c): As per available information, theft/pilferage of coal, if any, is carried out stealthily and clandestinely. As such, it is not possible to specify where frequent coal thefts/pilferages take place during transportation.

(d): Measures taken to check theft/pilferages inter-alia include:

(i) The coal is being transported through identified fixed route where check posts are provided enroute and manned by CISF at many places.

(ii) Global positioning system (GPS) based vehicle tracking system of trucks with geo-fencing has been implemented for coal transportation to prevent pilferage/diversion of coal through trucks.

(iii) To prevent coal theft / pilferage in coal loaded trucks on the way, strict vigil is being maintained and also day / night patrolling is being carried out.

(iv) In case of coal transferred and coal received involving two Collieries, the quantity is accepted only after weighment (in majority cases) and at the end of the month, Managers/Agents of both the Collieries sign coal transfer statement.

(v) All despatches to outside parties is weighed.

(vi) Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) based boom barriers have been installed at weigh bridges to identify illegal trucks carrying coal. Weigh bridges have been connected to COALNET to capture and monitor weight of the coal carrying vehicles to eliminate human intervention.

(vii) CCTV camera have been installed at all vulnerable points like entry/exit gate, weigh bridges, sidings etc. to keep a regular watch.

(e): Conservation of Coal is an important area. Mines are designed to work the coal seams either through opencast or through underground methods depending on the technical feasibility and economic viability in such a way that conservation of coal is given due importance right from the planning stage and maximum recovery is ensured during the implementation stage.

In underground (UG) mines, introduction of new technologies like Longwall method, Shortwall method, Highwall mining and Continuous Miner technology have resulted in increased percentage of extraction.

With the improvement in roof support technology with mechanized bolting with resin capsules, it has been possible to maintain wider gallery span and extract seams under bad roof conditions more efficiently resulting in improved conservation of Coal.

Sand stowing in underground mines is yet another effective means of coal conservation, which is widely in use for extraction of coal pillars from underground coal seams lying below built-up areas, such as important surface structures, railway lines, rivers, nallahs, etc. which otherwise would have resulted in locking of coal in pillars. Stowing also helps in the extraction of thick seams in several lifts increasing the percentage of extraction.
