

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF POWER  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1599  
ANSWERED ON 15.12.2022**

**ALTERNATIVE POWER SUPPLY**

**1599. DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJBHAI SOLANKI:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has conducted studies to assess whether small businesses use induction furnaces or electric arc furnaces for making steel through Direct Reduced Iron (DRI) that requires thermal coal;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to find alternative power supply and if so, the details thereof;**
- (d) whether the Government maintains any data indicating the sources of power supply utilised by small businesses;**
- (e) if so, the details thereof including alternatives to coal that are currently in use;**
- (f) whether the Government proposes to promote alternative sources of power like solar and wind; and**
- (g) if so, the details thereof including timeline and targets for the same and if not, the reasons therefor?**

**A N S W E R**

**THE MINISTER OF POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY**

**(SHRI R.K. SINGH)**

**(a) to (c) : The process of sponge iron manufacturing involves removal of oxygen from iron ore and is produced from Direct-Reduced Iron (DRI) process with the reduction of iron ore (in the form of lumps, pellets or fines) by a reducing gas using fuel (natural gas or coal). In this process, coal is used for producing reducer gas in a Horizontal Rotary Kiln. Hence studies requiring electrification of DRI are not undertaken.**

**(d) to (g) : The power from various sources is procured by the DISCOMs and supplied to various consumers, including the small businesses. As per the the Generation Expansion Planning studies carried out by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) for 2029-30, the share of non-fossil fuel based generation capacity in the total installed capacity of the Country is likely to increase from around 42% as on Oct, 2022 to more than 64% by 2029-30. This would reduce the dependence on fossil fuel in electricity generation and promote alternative sources of power like solar and wind.**

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