

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.4746
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.03.2023

Reduction of dependency on coal

4746. SHRI BALUBHAU ALIAS SURESH NARAYAN DHANORKAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has laid out plans to reduce dependency on coal as part of the net zero emission target by 2070, if so, the details thereof?
- (b) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to address the protests against the proposed Deoch-Pachami coal mine in West Bengal's Birbhum by dalit and tribal communities;
- (c) whether it is a fact that this coal mine could be Asia's largest coal mine, if operational;
- (d) whether it is also a fact that the tribal farmers who rely on land and forest to survive will only be rehabilitated and not be provided with land to grow crops; and
- (e) whether the Government has taken into account the local communities that are heavily dependent on coal or other fossil fuels when India reduces its dependency on them, if so, the details thereof?

Answer
MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a)&(e): Through Panchamrit Declaration during COP26, India has set timeline for attaining non-fossil energy capacity of 500 GW by 2030 and also to meet 50% of its energy requirement from renewable energy by 2030. In line with 'Glasgow Climate Pact', while India has committed to clean energy; the pace of transition to cleaner energy sources in India is to be viewed in the light of national circumstances, and principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, climate finance and transfer of low cost climate technologies.

Being an affordable source of energy with substantial reserve, coal is going to stay as a major source of energy in the foreseeable future. Thus, as of now there is no scenario of transition away from coal affecting those dependent on coal.

(b): Acquisition of land is responsibility of allocattee of coal block. As per information received from Govt. of West Bengal, majority of the people in the coal block area have already given their consent for the "Consent based Resettlement and Rehabilitation Package" for handing over their land for setting up the proposed coal mine to the State Government representatives.

(c): Coal mine is under exploration stage, capacity of the mine can be assessed after Geological Report is available.

(d): Rehabilitation and resettlement will be done as per prevailing norms of State Government.
