

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.4755
TO BE ANSWERED ON- 29.03.2023**

Policy for Coal Mining Closure

4755. Shri Asaduddin Owaisi:

Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether the Government plans to formulate a policy on the issue of coal mine closure based on Just Transition for All principles considering the social, physical and environmental effects on the region and the way of sustenance of livelihood of people dependent on it;
- (b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this direction;
- (c) whether the Government plans to set up a separate Just Transition Committee to build this policy framework instead of the Sustainable Development Cell and Just Transition Section;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government plans to set up more eco parks on closed coal mine sites as part of mine tourism?

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

(a) & (b): In India, transition away from coal is not happening in foreseeable future. Although India pushes for renewable/non-fossil-based energy, but share of coal in the energy basket is going to remain significant in years ahead. India continues to augment its coal production for meeting its increasing energy needs. Total coal consumption in India is yet to peak. The Economic Survey 2022-23 projects production of 1 billion tonnes of coal by FY26 and about 1.5 billion tonnes by 2030. It is expected that coal demand may continue to rise here onward and may peak around 2040. Despite thrust on renewable, coal continues as a primary source of energy to meet the growing development needs of India. Thus, as of now there is no scenario of transition away from coal affecting any stakeholders involved in coal mining.

The social, physical and environmental aspects relating to the coal mines are adequately dealt as per the provisions made in mine closure guidelines.

(c) & (d): No, Sir. There is no plan to set up a separate Just Transition Committee. The Ministry of Coal has already set up Sustainability & Just Transition Division to deal with the matters of sustainable development initiatives and Just Transition.

(e): Yes, Sir.
