

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 707
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2024

Growing Coal Demand

707. SHRI S.JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- a. whether the Government has taken cognizance of the study conducted by the Railway Board, which estimates that India's coal consumption will be increased to 1853 million tons (mt.) considering the high economic growth rate and per capita energy consumption in 2030; and
- b. if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the growing coal demand in the country?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): No such study has been undertaken by Railway Board. However, Government has initiated several steps to ramp up domestic coal production in the country in order to meet the growing coal demand. Some of the major initiatives undertaken include Single Window Clearance, amendment of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to allow captive mines to sell up to 50% of their annual production after meeting the requirement of the end use plants, production through MDO mode, increasing use of mass production technologies, new projects and expansion of existing projects, and auction of coal blocks to private companies/PSUs for commercial mining. 100% Foreign Direct Investment has also been allowed for commercial mining.

(ii) Coal India Limited has planned to enhance its coal production through expansion of mines (brownfield projects), opening of new mines (greenfield projects), mechanization and modernization of its mines, both UG & OC.

(iii) Pan India coal movement through rail mode is the domain of Ministry of Railways. Indian Railways have prepared National Rail Plan (NRP) to create a 'resilient' Railway system for India. It aims to formulate strategies based on both operational capacities and commercial policy initiatives to increase the share of Railways in freight transportation. Further Mission 3000 MT has been given as

an intermediate milestone towards achieving the aforesaid ambitious target of NRP by identifying and prioritizing crucial capacity enhancement works to carry freight including coal.

Indian Railways has undertaken several initiatives to cater to the increased demand of coal transportation in the country and the Railways is fully geared up to meet those demands. The Gross Budgetary Support (GBS) in Financial Year (FY) 2022-23 was 1.6 Lakh Crore (BE), which has increased to 2.4 Lakh Crores (BE) in the current FY 2023-24. Similarly, all time high capital expenditure of 2.6 Lakh Crores (BE) has been planned for the current FY 2023-24 for capacity expansion and asset modernization to support the high growth in the Indian economy.

In addition to the Indian Railways above initiatives/projects, for improving coal evacuation infrastructure, Coal India Limited has also invested about Rs. 20000 Cr. in the construction of seven new railway lines for its expansion mining projects in brownfield areas and new mining projects in Greenfield areas in the State of Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Jharkhand. This is in addition to the construction of new railway sidings and renovation and capacity enhancement of old sidings under its command area.
