

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2374
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2022

Coal Reserves

2374. SHRI S.JAGATHRAKSHAKAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government agrees with the view that India cannot do away with coal at least for the next few decades as it is endowed with large reserves of coal, which can last for over 200 years at the current rate of production;
- (b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government keeping in view that coal is inevitable in the energy mix of the country in the foreseeable future; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a)to(c): As per the Inventory for Coal and Lignite as on 01.04.2021, the total assessed geological coal resource is 352125.97 MT. Coal will remain prime energy source for near future as it is available in abundance.

Being an affordable source of energy with substantial reserve, coal is going to stay as major source of energy in the foreseeable future. Despite push for renewables, country will require base load capacity of coal-based generation for stability and also for energy security.

Overarching decisions titled 'Glasgow Climate Pact' reflect the following agreement between parties with regard to coal and fossil fuel subsidies:

'Calls upon Parties to accelerate the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies, and the adoption of policies, to transition towards low emission energy systems, including by rapidly scaling up the deployment of clean power generation and energy efficiency measures, including accelerating efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, while providing targeted support to the poorest and most vulnerable in line with National circumstances and recognizing the need for support towards a just transition'

It is evident that above paragraph is not mandating the phase down of coal power, and it is not setting any timelines for the phase down. Further, the paragraph is only 'calling upon' Parties to accelerate efforts towards the phase down of unabated coal power in line with national circumstances and recognizing the need for support towards a just transition. Paris Agreement is a multilateral treaty for combating climate change.

Accordingly, 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, the transfer of climate finance and low cost climate technologies.