

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2445
TO BE ANSWERED ON 16.03.2022

Reducing Dependence on Coal

2445. SHRI ACHYUTANANDA SAMANTA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India aims to produce 50% of its electricity from renewable resources by 2030, to reduce its dependence on coal;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has made plans of introducing a national policy that will ensure smooth transition to renewable resources from coal and recognize the social implications of moving towards clean energy and if so, the details and timeframe, thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is considering the transition away from coal which is likely to lead to unemployment and require retraining and reskilling of workers;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has a process in place to identify the workers directly or indirectly working in the coal sector, if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has identified districts across India, including Odisha that have at least one asset linked to the coal sector, including coal mine, thermal power plant or steel plant, and will be affected by the transition; and
- (f) if so, the details, thereof?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): No such National Policy for Just Energy Transition is under consideration by the Government. However, through Panchamrit Declaration during COP 26, India has set a timeline for attaining non-fossil energy capacity of 500 GW by 2030 and also to meet 50% of its energy requirements from renewable energy by 2030.

(c)&(d): In India, no transition away from coal is happening in foreseeable future. Although there will be push for renewable/non-fossil based energy, but share of coal in the energy basket is going to remain significant in years ahead. Thus, as of now there is no scenario of transition away from coal affecting the workers involved in coal mining.

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.

(e)&(f): Questions do not arise in view of part (c)&(d) of the question.
