

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 332**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2024

**R&D in Coal Technologies**

332. DR. AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of *Coal* be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an urgent need to increase our investment in Research & Development (R&D) in coal technologies and in identifying new sources, domestic and overseas, of this invaluable commodity;
- (b) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken by the government in this regards; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES  
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) Government has given high thrust on Research & Development (R&D) in coal technologies for improvement in existing uses and also in futuristic fields for diversification for long term sustainable growth. During 2023-24, Rs. 18.00 Cr was allocated for Research & Development under Central Sector Scheme. Further, during 2024-25, Rs. 21.00 Cr has been allocated under this scheme. Apart from this scheme, CIL & other CPSEs in coal sector are also making significant expenditure for the R&D activities.

(b) The following steps have been taken by the Government in this regard:

(i) A “National Centre for Coal & Energy Sector” (NaCCER) has been planned to be established at CMPDI, Ranchi.

(ii) Thrust areas identified for R&D activities, are as under:

- Production, Productivity, Safety and Exploration.
- Environment, Ecology, Conservation and Sustainability.
- Coal mining waste to wealth.
- Clean Coal Technologies and Coal Beneficiation.
- Alternative use of coal.
- Renewable Energy.
- AI/ML/IoT based smart mining.
- Technology Innovation and Indigenisation.

(iii) ‘Hackathon on Coal Gasification’ has been organized during 2024-25 to harness a vital natural resource to meet the energy and chemical needs of the nation, fostering economic independence and environmental sustainability.

(iv) “Hackathons on R&D” are organized to promote “Make in India” initiatives in coal sector by giving wide publicity and make efforts to promote / encourage start-ups in coal and lignite sector.

(c) Does not arise in view of above replies.

\*\*\*\*\*

