

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 21.12.2009
ANSWERED ON
SHORTAGE OF COAL IN POWER PLANTS .

3400

Shri Parimal Nathwani

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether there is a shortage of good quality coal especially required by the power plants in the country;
 - (b) if so, the grade-wise production of coal;
 - (c) what is the share of opencast (OC) and underground mines in production of good quality coal; and
 - (d) the details of the steps taken to increase production from underground mining ?
- ANSWER MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) AND

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

(SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) & (b): Quality of coal produced in the country is largely of lower grades because of the reasons that coal deposits in India are having inherently high ash content due to Drift origin. Accordingly, most of the Power Houses in India are designed for use of indigenous high ash coal. Grade-wise production of coal in the country during 2008-09 is at Annexure.

(c): During 2008-09, percentage of coal produced from underground mines was 12% and from opencast mines was 88%.

(d): Coal India Limited, the major producer of coal, has taken the following steps for augmenting coal production from underground mines:

1. Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) was entrusted to prepare an Action Plan for modernization of its existing mines in consultation with subsidiaries. The action plan inter alia, envisages following major activities:

a) Introduction of Mass Production and Longwall Technology at suitable locations b) replacement of manual loading by development of Side Discharge Loader(SDL)/Load Haul Dumper(LHD) and reorganization of transport system, wherever feasible c) enhancement of evacuation capacity by driving additional shaft and incline/drift d) development of additional coal winning equipment

2. Seven high capacity Greenfield underground mines have been identified for developing by state-of-the-art technology with Private-Public partnership on risk-gain sharing basis.

3. 18 abandoned mines with estimated reserves of over 1600 million tonnes of high quality coking coal and thermal coal have been identified for developing under a Joint Venture Arrangement with association of global underground mining companies.