

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:125
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2001
COAL RESERVES
T.T.V. DHINAKARAN;UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a): the estimated quantum of coal reserves in the country at present zone-wise;
- (b): the quantum of coal mined annually in the country;
- (c): the reasons for importing coal rather than exploiting the coal reserves;
- (d): the details of locations at which the exploration of coal reserves is going on;
- (e): whether there is any possibility of availability of more coal reserves in the country in addition to these locations; and
- (f): if so, the action taken or being taken by the government in this direction?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a) to (f): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in parts (a) to (f) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 125 for 31.07.2001 regarding Coal Reserves.

(a): (i) As per Geological Survey of India(GSI),as on 1.1.2001 total reserves in the country upto a depth of 1200 M are 213.91 billion tonnes.

(ii) The state-wise and category-wise break-up of coal reserves is as follows:

(In Million Tonnes)

State	Proved	Indicated	Inferred	Total
Andhra Pradesh	7,529.41	3,363.83	2,781.66	13,674.90
Arunachal Pradesh	31.23	11.04	47.96	90.23
Assam	259.37	26.83	34.01	320.21
Bihar-Jharkhand	35,147.58	28,444.18	5,582.83	69,174.59
Madhya Pradesh	14,017.30	22,102.07	8,199.65	44,319.02
Chattishgarh				
Maharashtra	4,388.50	1,301.65	1,605.41	7,295.56
Meghalaya	117.83	40.89	300.71	459.43
Nagaland	3.43	1.35	15.16	19.94
Orissa	11,307.68	23,728.50	16,535.11	51,571.29
Uttar Pradesh	765.98	295.82	0.00	1,061.80
West Bengal	10,845.62	10,925.66	4,147.26	25,918.54
Total Coal	84,413.93	90,241.82	39,249.76	213,905.51

(b): The country produced 309.69 million tonnes of coal in 2000-01.

(c): Consumers are importing coal due to:

- Limited reserves and inadequate availability of good quality coking coal required for steel plants.

- Indian coal due to its drift origin is characterised by high ash content.

Superior quality non-coking coal is also being imported due to inadequate availability from indigenous sources.

- With the present structure of railway freight and import duty, imported coal becomes cost competitive per therm basis in littoral areas.

(d): During 2001-2002 promotional exploration will be done in East Bokaro(Jharkhand), North Karanpura(Jharkhand), Birbhum(West Bengal), Talcher(Orissa), I B River(Orissa), Sohagpur(M.P/Chhatisgarh), P e n c h Valley(MP), Mandraigarh(Chhatisgarh) Sonhat(Chhatisgarh), Katol Basin(Maharashtra), Wardha Valley(maharashtra) and Godavari Valley(Andhra Pradesh).

(ii) During 2001-2002 detailed exploration will be undertaken in Raniganj(West Bengal), North Karanpura(Jharkhand), Ramgarh(Jharkhand), Wardha Vally(Maharashtra), Pathakhera(MP), P e n c h Kanha(MP), Kanptee(Maharashtra) Sohagpur(MP/Chhatisgarh), Bistrampur(Chhatisgarh)Korba(Chhatisgarh), Hasdeo- arand(Chhatisgarh), Singrauli(UP&MP), IB Valley(Orissa) and Talcher(Orissa).

(e): Yes, Sir.

(f): (i) Regional Exploration by GSI is funded by Ministry of Mines. The Ministry of Coal has approved a promotional exploration scheme for conducting about 6.5 lakh meters of drilling and related exploration activities in coal and lignite during IXth plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 147 crores. The promotional exploration target for the IXth plan will be achieved and the sum of Rs. 147 crores will be fully utilised. This scheme has been operative since 1989.

(ii) Government have also sanctioned a scheme for detailed exploration in non-CIL blocks during IXth plan, involving 2.67 lakhs meters of drilling at an estimated cost of Rs. 73.18 crores. The exploration is being conducted by CMPDI and MECL and the targets for the IXth plan in non-CIL blocks will be achieved and fund utilised.

(iii) The annual budget for 2000-01 for detailed exploration in CIL command areas was about Rs. 29.51 crores. And in 2001-02 a provision of Rs. 37.27 crore has been made.