

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5272  
ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010  
EXPLORATION OF COAL BED METHANE  
Rathwa Shri Ramsinhbhai Patalbhai

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

- (a) the details of the total requirement of coal in the country annually;
- (b) whether the Government is keen on investing in frontier technologies for exploration of coal bed methane and underground coal gasification;and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a): As per the demand projections of coal made by Planning Commission, the total requirement of coal for the year 2010-11 is 656.31 million tonnes. Out of this Coking Coal requirement is 50.51 million tonnes and Non-coking coal is 605.81 million tonnes.

(b)&(c): No, Sir. The Govt. is not proposing to invest either in Underground Coal Gasification or in Coal Bed Methane. However it may be mentioned that Govt. has issued guidelines for conducting Underground Coal Gasification operations and identified 5 lignite and 2 coal blocks for offer to potential entrepreneurs. Further Govt. has allotted 26 blocks for CBM exploration and exploitation to various companies.