

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:353  
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2010  
COAL RESERVES IN NORTH EASTERN REGION  
Meinya Dr. Thokchom

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

- (a) whether unmined coal reserves exist in the North Eastern region particularly in Assam and Meghalaya;
- (b) If so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to exploit these coal reserves; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) IN RESPECT OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 353 FOR REPLY ON 18.08.2010 ASKED BY DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA

(a) & (b): As per the latest inventory of Geological Resources of Coal in India by the Geological Survey of India, 1471 Million Tonnes of Geological Resources of coal have so far been estimated in the NE region. Of this, 388 Million Tonnes are in Assam and 576 Million Tonnes in Meghalaya. In Assam three opencast mines viz., Tirap OC, Tikak OC and Ledo OC are in operation under North Eastern Coalfields Limited (NEC) of Coal India Limited (CIL). In Meghalaya, coal is being produced by the local people as per the extent customary and tribal land rights.

(c) & (d): In the state of Assam, five more new opencast mines viz. Lekhapani OC, Tikak Extension OC, Tipong OC, PQ Block OC and Lachitkhani OC are proposed to be opened. In Meghalaya, the only lease held by NEC, CIL is Simsang, which had expired in 2008 and its renewal is yet to be received from the State of Meghalaya. In the absence of renewal of lease in the state of Meghalaya, at present no more mines has been planned to be opened by NEC, CIL.