

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4797

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010

COAL MINING POLICY

Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar; Tirkey Shri Manohar

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is facing shortage of coal despite ample non-coking reserves available in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to formulate a comprehensive coal mining policy;
- (d) if so, the salient features of the policy; and
- (e) the time by when the policy is likely to be implemented?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): As per Geological Survey of India, the inventory of total coal resources in the country as on 1.4.2010 was 276.81 billion tonnes. However, out of these total reserves, the reserves in "proved" category are only 39.67% and the balance is under "inferred and indicated" category. Further, the quantity of mineable /extractable coal out of the proved category is lower as it is dependent on geo-mining conditions, technology available and used for mining etc. Further, the demand of coking and non-coking coal in the country is not being met fully at present from indigenous sources alone. The consumers are also resorting to import of coal on cost considerations and quality. As per Annual Plan 2010-11, while the All India coal demand has been estimated at 656.31 million tonnes, the indigenous coal availability is estimated at 572.37 million tonnes and the gap is likely to be met through import.

(c): No, Sir. At present, there is no such proposal under consideration.

(d)&(e): Does not arise, in view of reply given in respect of part (c) of this question.