

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:386

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PRODUCTION OF COAL

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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of Coal Production at present from open cast and underground mines;
- (b) the reasons for very less production from underground mines in the country;
- (c) whether the technology adopted for underground coal mining is outdated; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to introduce latest technology in the coal production from underground mines?

Answer

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

(a): The percentage share of opencast and underground mines in total coal production during 2008-09 was 88.03 and 11.97 respectively.

(b): The percentage share of underground production has gradually declined over the years. This has occurred on account of the concerted efforts of the Government to augment production matching the growing energy requirements by undertaking large number of high capacity mechanized opencast mines with a shorter gestation periods since the scope of augmenting production from the underground mines was limited on account of difficult geo-mining conditions, non-availability of large size deposits for adopting mass production technology, inadequate experience in mechanization of underground mines, total dependence on imported equipment for mass production technology. In addition, lack of appropriate technologies to mine coal from thick and steeply inclined and multiple seams, gassiness of seams requiring special attention, heavy pumping of water, adverse roof conditions and problem associated with contiguous/multiple seam workings are other major reasons for low underground coal production.

(c) & (d): The technology adopted in the legacy mines of CIL is old and outdated.

However after nationalization wherever feasible CIL has phased out manual mining by introduction of SDL/LHD in its underground mining and adopting latest technology where geo-mining conditions permit.

The following steps have been taken/are proposed to be taken by CIL to introduce latest technology in the coal production from underground mines:

- # Mass Production technologies with Continuous Miners & shuttle car combination with mechanized drilling system and Long-wall technology at suitable locations are being introduced.
- # Manual loading is being replaced by deployment of SDL/LHD and reorganization of transport system, wherever feasible.
- # High wall mining technology is also planned in the mines where geo-mining conditions permit.
- # Driving additional shaft and incline/drift to enhance evacuation capacity.
- # Additional coal winning equipments are being deployed.
- # Seven high capacity green-field underground mines have been identified for developing using state-of-the-art technology with Private Public partnership on risk-gain sharing basis.
- # Restarting mining in a few abandoned mines belonging to three of its subsidiaries namely ECL, BCCL and CCL, with appropriate technology, by forming JVs with reputed mining companies.