

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3307
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2011
MECHANISATION OF UNDERGROUND COAL MINES
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the mechnisation work has not been undertaken so far in many underground coal mines in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of such mines and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for full utilisation of modern equipment in coal mines of the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a): Mechanization of underground mines is a continuous process. The manual mines are being converted into semi-mechanised bord & pillar with Load Haul Dumper (LHD)/Side Discharge Loader (SDL) and fully mechanized mass production technology with Continuous Miner (CM) & Power Support Longwall faces (PSLW) in steps. There are mines in Coal India Limited(CIL), which are not yet mechanized and are in the process of mechanization.

(b): Out of about 272 underground mines of CIL, fully mechanized PSLW packages are in operation in two mines and Shortwall packages are in operation in one mine, Continuous miner with mass production technology are in operation in six mines, semi-mechanized bord and pillar mining with LHD and SDL loading are in operation in about 149 mines and mechanized with mixed loading (LHD/SDL loading & manual) in 55 mines and rest of the mines which are not yet mechanized, are in the process of mechanization. For underground mechanization the problems are being faced such as difficult geo-mining condition, poor response from supplier of mass production technology equipment.

(c): The steps taken/ are being taken for utilization of modern equipments in coal mines are given below:

- i) Conversion of manual loading to semi-mechanized LHD/SDL loading as much as possible.
- ii) Universal Drilling Machines (UDMs) are being deployed in phased manner for ensuring proper utilization of loading equipment such as SDL/LHD.
- iii) Manriding systems are being installed to utilize shift hours fruitfully.
- iv) Improvement of face transportation by introduction of belt conveyor in place of Light duty chain conveyor.
- v) Steps for proper spare parts management and maintenance management are also processed to ensure optimum availability of the equipments.