

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3500
ANSWERED ON:29.07.2009
MINING OF COAL RESERVES BENEATH DAMODAR RIVER
Singh Shri Ganesh

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government had constituted any Joint Committee of the Ministry of Energy and the Department of Coal for exploring coal reserves beneath the river Damodar;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the main recommendations of the said Committee;
- (c) the action taken by the Government thereon;
- (d) the likely expenditure and the funds allocated for the purpose; and
- (e) the time by which the mining of coal reserves is likely to commence?

Answer

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

(a): Ministry of Energy (Department of Coal), Government of India set up a Committee of Experts in 1975 to undertake techno-economic examination of a preliminary nature to study the different alternatives of winning locked up medium coking coal beneath the Damodar river and railway line in Bokaro and Kargali Area.

(b): The terms of reference to the committee were as under:

- i) To study the feasibility of diverting the river Damodar to enable extraction of coking coal reserves lying beneath the river bed
- ii) To study the economics of such diversion vis-a-vis the methods, if any, for extraction of the coal beneath the river bed
- iii) To prepare plans for diversion of the railway line with or without the diversion of the river for enabling extraction of coal locked up under the railway line.
- iv) To estimate the cost involved in the aforesaid proposal.

The Committee recommended as under :-

- i) The railway line and river Damodar be diverted along the routes indicated by them for releasing the locked up medium coking coal below them in the Bokaro & Kargali areas.
- ii) The Government take an early decision in the matter and depute specialist agency to prepare detailed project report for the diversions along the routes tentatively indicated.
- iii) The job of diversion should be so scheduled as to be completed before the expiry of the present life of Bokaro, Kargali and Chalkari mines which is estimated to be 8 years. Accordingly, the job of railway line diversion should be taken up first and as soon as the details feasibility study of Damodar River Diversion is completed, this job should also be executed at the earliest.

(c): The project report for diversion of railway line namely Phusro-Jarangdih Rail Diversion (PJRD) was sanctioned by Government of India in 1982. Government of India had approved the advance action proposal (AAP) for Damodar River Diversion (DRD) in 1983.

(d): For Damodar River Diversion (DRD) the initial capital investment was Rs. 2.0 crore which was revised to Rs.5.60 crore in 1993. Expenditure on the project till 01.04.2009 is Rs.9.75 crore.

For Phusro-Jarangdih Rail Diversion (PJRD) the initial capital investment was Rs.15.93 crore which was revised to Rs. 48.78 crore in 1991. Expenditure on the Project till 01.04.2009 is Rs.29.73 crore.

CMPDIL in its draft Project Report (March, 2009) has indicated the capital expenditure of Rs.2100 crore on the coal mining project. The updated assessment of expenditure on DRD and PJRD are still to be received from Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) and RITES Limited.

(e): As the draft report submitted by CMPDIL is in the initial stages of examination, it is not possible to indicate the time by which mining of coal will commence at this stage.