

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1202  
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2012  
EXPLORATION OF COAL  
Kumar Shri P.

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to undertake survey in many parts of the country to discover coal deposits;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there are huge deposits of coal that are yet to be discovered;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether Coal India Limited (CIL) proposes to spend more funds on research & development in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a)to(d): Yes, Sir. Coal exploration is a continuous process. Coal deposits of the country are being explored by Govt. agencies i.e. Geological Survey of India (GSI), Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd. (CMPDI), Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd.(MECL) and some State Govts. as part of the Regional & Detailed Exploration activities. Exploration has already been carried out over an area of about 14000 Sq. Km till the end of XI Plan and a coal resource of about 286 billion tonnes were established. During XII Plan, it is proposed to cover an additional area of about 4000 Sq.Km to add about 22 billion tonnes of coal resources.

(e)&(f): Exploration Department of CMPDI has taken two Research & Development (R&D) Projects and is contemplating to take one R & D Project involving 3 D seismic survey as per the details given below :-

(1) R & D Projects undertaken by Exploration Department :

(i) Project titled "Effective utilization of Low Rank and High Volatile High Rank Coking Coals for Blast Furnace". The Project is under implementation and likely to be completed in 2012-13. The estimated cost of the Project is Rs.2.65 crores.

(ii). Project titled "Analysis of in-situ stress for Coal Bed Methane exploration in Jharia coalfield". The Project is under implementation and likely to be completed in 2012-13. The estimated cost of the Project is Rs.1.68 crores.

(2) R & D Projects being contemplated by Exploration Department is follows:

Application of 3-D Seismic Survey in coal exploration. :

The expertise of 3-D seismic survey is not available with Exploration Department. Department is exploring possibility of locating an experienced partner to demonstrate the technique of 3-D Seismic Survey, train CMPDI geophysicists and help in selection of equipment. The estimate is tentatively worked out as Rs.70 crores and is to be finalized after identification of the partner.

Exploration for coal is a continuous process and new resources get added year on year. Geological Survey of India (GSI) under Ministry of mines is vested with the responsibility for conducting regional exploration of various minerals including coal through out the country. Besides, Ministry of Coal through a Plan Scheme of Promotional/regional exploration conducts exploration for coal to supplement the efforts of GSI. Further, coal companies conduct detailed exploration in their command areas for proving coal reserves for preparing projects and to take up coal production. ON the basis of exploration carried out by different agencies GSI prepares resource data on 1st April every year. As per the data published by GSI as on 01.04.2011 the estimates coal resources stand at 285862.21 Million Tonnes, of which 114001.60 Million tones or about 40% are proved reserves.