

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:876  
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2012  
COAL MINING TECHNOLOGY  
Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai

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

- (a) whether the coal mining technology employed in the country is old and out dated and is one of the major reasons for less production of coal in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken by the Government to modernize the coal mining technology so as to increase the coal production in the country and save the foreign exchanges?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) : It is a fact that old coal mining technology particularly, in the underground mines (UG), has been the main reason for less production as most of these mines were taken over mines at the time of Nationalisation.

(c) : In Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) in a number of underground mines semi-mechanisation using Side Discharge Loaders (SDLs)/Load Haul Dumpers (LHDs) has been adopted wherever this technology was feasible. Also mechanization of underground mines using Continuous Miner (CM) technology has been adopted as per the techno-economic feasibility. Long-wall mining technology has also been adopted in some mines of CIL and SCCL. All the opencast mines in CIL and SCCL are mechanized with different technologies like Shovel Dumper, Draglines, Surface Miners etc. High-wall mining technology has also been adopted in two mines one each in South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL) and SCCL. All the new mines are planned with appropriate technologies. These efforts are envisaged to increase the coal production from underground mines of CIL and SCCL to increase from 38.39 Million Tonnes (MT) achieved in 2011-12 the terminal year of the Eleventh Plan to 55.89 MT in 2016-17 the terminal year of the Twelfth Plan in case of CIL; and from 10.64 MT in 2011-12 the terminal year of the Eleventh Plan to 15.98 MT in 2016-17 the terminal year of the Twelfth Plan in case of SCCL. Similarly, the coal production from the opencast mines is envisaged to increase from 399.44 MT achieved in 2011-12 the terminal year of the Eleventh Plan to 559.11 MT in 2016-17 the terminal year of the Twelfth Plan in case of CIL and from 41.57 MT achieved in 2011-12 the terminal year of the Eleventh Plan to 41.02 MT in 2016-17 the terminal year of the Twelfth Plan in case of SCCL.