

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3674
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2013
TASK FORCE ON COAL PRODUCTION
Adhi Sankar Shri

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up a task force to map out a strategy for increasing production from underground mines as part of a long-term solution to India's coal shortage problem;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the said task force would look into various aspects of underground coal mining such as cost of production, capital requirements, safety and technology and suggest ways and means for improvement of coal production
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the time by which the task force is likely to submit its recommendations/ suggestions?

Answer

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

- (a) to (d):Government of India has not set up any Task Force to map out a strategy for increasing production from underground mines. However, Coal India Limited (CIL), at the advise of Ministry of Coal has floated an Expression of Interest in February 2013 for engaging International Consultants for suggesting modernisation and technological improvement in their mines including both underground and opencast mines. The broad objectives to be covered under the proposed study include assessment of the status of existing technology for safety, production and productivity in the underground and opencast mines of various coal fields of CIL; to assess the gaps in technology upgradation; to assess the requirements of technology and infrastructure development for mine planning and design and construction with regard to the projected coal production during XII, XIII and XV Five Year Plans; to assess the indigenous capabilities in meeting the technology upgradation requirements vis-À-vis import dependence; to assess the systems development for meeting the projected technology upgradation; to assess the application of information technology and automation in technology development; and to prepare a roadmap for technology upgradation during the above said Plan periods.
- (e):Does not arise in view of part (a) to (d) above.