

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2705  
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2015  
PRODUCTION FROM UNDERGROUND MINES  
Muddahanumegowda Shri S.P.

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

- (a) whether the Ministry 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;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the new task force would look into various aspects of underground coal mines such as cost of production, capital requirements, safety and technology and suggest ways for improvement of coal production; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

- (a) & (b): At the behest of Ministry of Coal, Coal India Limited (CIL) has taken steps to engage consultant for a study to suggest measures for improving the production, productivity and safety of underground mines.
- (c) & (d): The proposed study will include the following aspects of underground mining:
  - (i) To assess the various factors that are coming in the way of enhancing coal production from underground mines of different coal companies in CIL;
  - (ii) To study the available coal reserves suitable for underground mining in each coal subsidiary company of CIL;
  - (iii) To assess the existing level of mechanization of the underground mines in various subsidiary companies and the trend in production from the same;
  - (iv) To assess the scope for replacing cyclic mining and avoiding blasting operations by deploying mass production technologies like continuous miner, short wall mining, long wall mining, etc.;
  - (v) To assess the scope of mechanization deploying continuous miners with matching roof supporting mechanism and to phase out side discharge loaders;
  - (vi) To assess the scope of amalgamation of smaller units and strengthening the infrastructure for mechanization of amalgamated units;
  - (vii) To assess the preparedness of different coal companies in terms of shelf of projects for implementation;
  - (viii) To assess the requirement of different infrastructural support for taking Greenfield/brown field projects;
  - (ix) To analyse the reasons for delay in implementing the already conceived underground continuous miner/long wall projects in BCCL in particular and other companies in general;
  - (x) To assess the scope for reviving the identified 6 closed mines in different subsidiary companies as envisaged earlier;
  - (xi) To assess the gap between the availability and the requirement of skilled man power for underground mines over next ten year's time;
  - (xii) To assess the training needs of technical manpower in underground mechanization;
  - (xiii) To assess the means of incentivizing underground coal mining;
  - (xiv) To address the contract management issues to importing of equipment for underground mines and also to examine the issue of

certification/approvals by safety regulator for imported underground machinery;

(xv) To assess the possible cooperation with various technology providers from different countries for taking up large scale underground mechanization;