GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3860
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2015
PRODUCTION IN UNDERGROUND MINES
Adsul Shri Anandrao

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether only 15 per cent Indian's coal production is from underground mines;

(b) if so, whether considering the hurdles in forest clearances and land acquisition in future, serious efforts need to be made to increase the share of underground production of coal;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is considering to frame focusing on long wall technology and productivity in underground mines;

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(f) whether the Government has formulated PPP projects with appropriate terms with renowned international players to shore up the underground production level; and

(g) 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): Percent of coal production from underground mines of Coal India Limited (CIL) for the last 3 years are as under:-

Year	Total Production (Million Tonne)	Underground Production (Million Tonne)	% of Underground Production
2013-14	462.422	36.113	7.81
2012-13	452.211	37.776	8.35
2011-12	435.838	38.393	8.81

(b) & (c): Environmental and Forestry clearances are mandatory for both Opencast and Underground method of Mining. Land required as per the project Report is also to be acquired for both the methods of mining. Therefore, the process of acquisition of land and or obtaining Environment Clearance (EC) and Forestry Clearance (FC) are the same for both the cases of mining.

Further, opening up of underground (UG) or Opencast mine broadly depends on depth and thickness of coal seam, stripping ratio and Geo-mining conditions of the deposit. Gestation period of an Underground mine is very high and recovery of coal resources is only about 30.35%. Whereas in case of opencast mine, the gestation period is comparatively less and the percentage recovery of coal resources is better than UG operation. Availability of Higher size equipment has also helped in extraction of reasonably deeper seams with opencast method of mining. Further, as the demand of coal in the country is very high, opening up of opencast mine has been helpful in addressing the demand -supply gap.

(d) & (e): The Long wall power support technology and Continuous Miner technology is being introduced in a few CIL mines, suitable for introduction of such Technology for increasing coal production and productivity from Underground mines. In addition, Man Riding facility is also being introduced to increase efficiency of workers and productivity of UG miners.

(f) & (g): In CIL, Long wall power support technology and Continuous Miner technology is being introduced in its few mines, depending upon the Geo-mining conditions amenable for introduction of such technologies. Risk/gain sharing as well as Turnkey basis Model is being followed for such introduction of Technology.