

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6876
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2015
UNDERGROUND COAL MINES
Poddar Smt. Aparupa

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the number of underground coal mines are decreasing over the years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the roadmap prepared for their protection and increasing the production of coal therefrom by best utilization of equipment and technology?

Answer

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

(a& b): The number of working underground mines and the production of raw coal during the last 3 years in Coal India Limited is given below:

Year	Number (Provisional)	Production (Million Te)
2012-13	270 + 23 Mixed	37.776
2013-14	237 + 26 Mixed	36.113
2014-15	231 + 28 Mixed (Provisional)	35.047

Number of underground mines are decreasing due to conversion of underground mines to opencast mines, exhaustion of reserve in existing mines, safety reasons, economic non-viability, etc.

(c): The target of coal production of CIL for 2015-16 is fixed at 38.56 MTfor underground mines and an exercise has also been carried out by CIL to prepare a roadmap for achieving a production level of 52.20 Mt by the year 2019-20 by using improved technology i.e. use of Continuous Miner;Long Wall Technology; development in transport infrastructure, etc.