

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:513  
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2015  
Underground Mines  
Pathak Smt. Riti

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

- (a) the number of underground mines are running under the Northern Coalfields Ltd. (NCL) in the country;
- (b) whether the number of these mines is decreasing and if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether there is any proposal to run only open cast projects in NCL; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d) : At present extraction of coal in Northern Coalfields Ltd.(NCL) is taking place in 10 opencast mines and there is no underground mine there in operation at present. Decision to take up open cast mining or underground mining is based on the exploration results and evaluation of nature of coal deposits. At present, exploration in the main basin has been taken up but has not been completed.

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