

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2959  
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2015  
Presence of Metals in Coal Waste  
Tripathi Shri Sharad

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

- (a) whether various types of metals are reportedly found in coal waste generated during coal mining in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the quality of coal extracted from mines is affected due to presence of such metals/particles; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken to remove various metals/impurities from the coal extracted from the mines?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (d): Mining of coal is done by opencast and underground method. The overburden over the coal seam consisting of mostly shale & sand stone, is removed during extraction of coal. It is considered as waste. The overburden so produced is stacked separately. Over burden generally consists of 80 to 90% silica and minor trace of some kind of metals which exists in chemical bond and are inseparable on commercial lines. However based on the requirements, coal is being washed to separate shale/clay material/ash in washeries and proper crushing and sizing is also being taken up for maintaining the quality.

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