

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 287
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2018

Coal Exploration

287. SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA; SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN:

Will the **MINISTER OF COAL** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is taking up measures to expand coal exploration in the country and if so, the details thereof, if not the reasons therefor;
- (b) whether the Government has taken cognizance to the fact that India's coal reserves will be exhausted in a few decades and if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and
- (c) the details of the steps being taken to address the issue?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COAL
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a): Exploration of coal resources in the country is a continuous process. Ministry of Coal through its central sector scheme supports the promotional/regional exploration and detailed exploration in non Coal India Limited (CIL) blocks. Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI) is the nodal agency in coal exploration and does exploration departmentally or through its contractual agencies for Coal India subsidiaries companies and also for Central Sector Scheme of Ministry of Coal, Govt. of India. The drilling/exploration done by CMPDI in last 4 years & current year are given in below table:

| Item | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018 -19 (Apr'18- Nov'18) |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| Promotional (Regional) & Detailed drilling in Coal (in Lakh Meter) | 8.98 | 10.46 | 11.75 | 14.08 | 8.40 |

(b) & (c): The total estimated coal resources in the country is 319.02 billion tonnes as per "The inventory of Geological Resources of Indian Coal" (as on 01.04.2018), prepared by the Geological Survey of India. The total coal extracted from the coalfields of India during 2017-18 is 680.46 million tonnes and since 1950 upto 2017-18 is around 15122.28 million tonne (as per Coal Controller, MoC, Govt. of India). Every year about 3 to 5 billion tonnes of proved (measured) resources are being added through fresh exploration to the Coal Inventory of India. At the present rate of extraction, coal will last for several decades.
