

(Schedule V) areas and Selected Tribal and Backward Districts (as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs and Planning Commission) the objective is to connect eligible unconnected habitations with a population of 250 persons and above (Census 2001). For most intensive LAP blocks as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs, the unconnected habitations with population 100 and above (as per 2001 Census) are eligible to be covered under PMGSY.

As per PMGSY guidelines, execution of PMGSY projects is the responsibility of the State Government. Under PMGSY, the unit of programme is a habitation and not a revenue village or panchayat. Under PMGSY total eligible unconnected habitations are:

Habitation Size (Population)	Number of eligible habitations	Habitations Connected (Upto January, 2015)
1000+	54,063	47,840
999-500	73,645	42,302
499-250	50,476	16,064

(c) Bihar has a total of 24,804 eligible habitations to be connected according to the core network of PMGSY. Out of this, as per the information furnished by the State Government, 13,141 habitations have been connected (up to 31st January, 2015).

(d) As per core network of PMGSY, the total number of eligible unconnected habitations at the national level, is 1,78,184 out of which all the States have reported to have connected 1,06,206 habitations (upto January, 2015).

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Price of coal

1921. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of coal in the international market has fallen from US \$120 to US \$60;

(b) whether it is also a fact that demand in the domestic market for coal has also come down; and

(c) if so, how the Ministry is planning to go ahead?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) As per data published in the World Bank's Pink Sheets, the price of Australian thermal coal (6300 K Cal/Kg) which was 92.77 USD/mt. in January, 2013, declined to 84.34 USD/mt. in December, 2013 and further decreased to 62.44 USD/mt. in December, 2014. This indicates that international coal prices have in general, been on a decline during 2013 and 2014.

(b) and (c) The demand of coal in the domestic market has remained higher than the production level/supply in the country. Therefore, the focus of the Government is to increase the domestic production of coal which include efforts to expedite environment and forest clearances, pursuing with State Government for help in expediting land acquisition and coordinated effort with Railways for movement of coal. In order to bridge the demand supply gap, the import of coal has been kept under Open General License (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal from the source of their choice as per their contractual prices on payment of applicable duty.

Demand of coal

†1922. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is unable to fulfil the domestic demand of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is considering to invite private investment at large scale especially from those mining companies having expertise in exploration works; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) The demand for coal is higher than the current production/supply of coal in the country. During 2013-14, as against a total consumption of coal 739 Mte., the domestic production of coal was 565.8 Mte.

(c) and (d) In order to bring in better technology through private investment, the development of some of coal blocks assigned to CIL is envisaged to be done by engaging a Mine Development and Operator (MDO). For management and reallocation of cancelled coal blocks, Government promulgated 'The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014' on 21.10.2014 followed by 'The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Second Ordinance, 2014' on 26.12.2014 to ensure smooth transfer

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.