

the coal mining *vide* Press Note issued by Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade on 18.09.2019 allowing 100% Foreign Direct Investment under automatic route for sale of coal, coal mining activities including associated processing infrastructure subject to the provisions of CM (SP) Act, 2015 and the MM(DR) Act, 1957 as amended from time to time and other relevant Acts on the subject. Associated Processing Infrastructure includes coal washery, coal handling and separation (magnetic and non-magnetic). For sale of coal, allowing 100% FDI for coal mining activities including associated processing infrastructure is expected to attract international players and create efficient and competitive coal market.

Reducing dependency on import of coal

807. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country imports about 213 million tonnes of coal despite abundance of coal reserves as per the data available till April, 2018;

(b) whether it is a fact that one of the major reasons for gap between demand and supply of coal in the country is abysmal performance of Coal India Limited which had monopoly in mining till 2018;

(c) whether the introduction of private players in coal mining since 2018 has improved the supply situation to a certain extent; and

(d) the special measures Government has taken to overcome the problems of coal sector?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) As on 01/04/2018, a total of 319 Billion Tonnes (BT) of Geological Reserves of coal have been estimated so far in India. The import of coal during the year 2018-19 was 235.24 MT.

(b) In order to reduce dependence on coal imports, there has been a consistent effort to increase domestic coal production. All India raw coal production has increased from 565.77 MT in 2013-14 to 730.35 MT (Prov.) in 2018-19, an absolute increase of 164.58 MT as compared to increase of coal production of 73.01 MT between 2008-09 and 2013-14. Coal India Limited (CIL) has also increased its production from 461.42 MT in 2013-14 to 609.89 MT in 2018-19, an absolute increase of 144.48 MT as compared to increase of coal production of 58.68 MT between 2008-09 and 2013-14.

(c) Allocation order is in force for 78 coal block/mines. Out of which 28 coal mines are operational and 17 mines (11 private + 6 Government) are producing coal. The production of coal by mines allocated to 11 private players under coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 is as under:—

Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20 #
Production (MT)	5.59	7.05	7.87	8.43	4.40

Upto Oct., 2019.

(d) The focus of the Government is on accelerating domestic production of coal through allocation of more coal blocks, pursuing with State Government for assistance in land acquisition and coordinated efforts with Railways for movement of coal.

Prior to ongoing tranche of coal allocation, coal blocks were allocated to private companies for captive use purpose only and not for sale of coal. In the current tranche of auction, 25% of coal production has been allowed for sale of coal for private companies.

Further, for sale of coal, allowing 100% FDI for coal mining activities including associated processing infrastructure is expected to attract international players and create efficient and competitive coal market.

In order to enhance coal production, CIL has taken the following steps:—

- Opening of 55 greenfield projects having capacity of 92 MTPA and expansion of 193 brownfield projects having capacity of about 310 MTPA in next five years.
- Portal based monitoring of ongoing projects to ensure timely completion of projects.
- Introduction of state-of-the-art technology to improve its work efficiency with high capacity Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM), like 42 cum Shovel and 240 T Rear Dumpers in Gevra Expansion, Dipka and Kasmunda open cast mines.
- Introduction of Surface Miners in opencast mines to improve operational efficiency and to cater to environmental needs. During 2018-19 in CIL, around 50% of the opencast coal production was through Surface miners.

- Introduction of IT enabled Operator Independent Truck Dispatch System (OITDS) in 11 nos. of mines of CIL.
- Introduction of Mass Production Technology in underground coal mines, 2 mines are worked with Powered Support Longwall technology and 9 mines are worked with Continuous Miner technology.
- For rapid coal evacuation, 19 nos. Coal Handling Plants with silos and rapid loading system having existing capacity of 152.5 million tonnes are in operation.

Drain of foreign exchange due to import of coal

808. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether import of coal has increased from 131.3 million tonnes in 2014 to 213 million tonnes in 2018, a quantum jump of about 90 million tonnes;

(b) whether coal mining sector did not maintain pace as per increased demand situation mainly due to delay in environmental and forest clearances, land acquisition, transportation of coal from inaccessible mines, inadequate availability of railway rakes, etc. which were tackled in 2014-15;

(c) the factor responsible for slow down in the growth rate to 7 per cent; and

(d) measures taken to reduce import of coal and increase indigenous coal production?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) Coal imports fell from a level of 217.78 MT in 2014 to 203.95 MT in 2015-16 and 190.95 MT in 2016-17. However, thereafter Import of coal increased to 208.27 MT in 2017-18 and further to 235.24 MT in 2018-19. Here it may be mentioned that between 2009-10 and 2013-14 import of coal registered a compound annual growth rate of 22.86% which reduced substantially to 1.96% between 2014-15 and 2018-19.

(b) There has been a consistent effort to increase domestic coal production. All India raw coal production has increased from 565.77 MT in 2013-14 to 730.35 MT (Prov.) in 2018-19, an absolute increase of 164.58 MT as compared to increase of coal production of 73.01 MT between 2008-09 and 2013-14.