

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Status of coal production**

1. SHRI K.J. ALPHONS: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the production of coal in the first quarter of 2020;
- (b) the production in the subsequent quarter;
- (c) the reasons for the decrease in production; and
- (d) the projection for the entire year?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) All India coal production in the first quarter (January-March 2020) was 249.01 MT.

(b) The production of coal in the subsequent quarter (April - June 2020) was 144.15 MT.

(c) The main reasons for decrease in coal production are summarized below:

- (i) Lower production of coal due to COVID 19 effect.
- (ii) Decrease in demand of coal due to reduction in demand of power by about 30%. Shut down of many industries in non-power sector due to lockdown further impacted the demand resulting in poor off take.
- (iii) Supply of explosives affected due to restriction in interstate movement.
- (iv) Excessive rainfall during the year in some of the coal mining areas;
- (v) Delay in land acquisition and R & R related issues;
- (vi) Dispatch by Rail/Road adversely affected due to lockdown.

(d) All India coal production is estimated at around 800 MT for the entire year subject to improved demand conditions.

Coal gasification and the auctioning of new coal blocks

2. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to promote coal gasification and also auctioning of new coal and mineral blocks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of modifications made in the revenue sharing mechanism in the coal sector; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to minimise the import of coal from other countries?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) Yes. As per methodology for auction of coal mines for sale of coal on revenue sharing basis dated 28.05.2020, coal can be utilized for coal gasification and incentives for coal gasification have also been provided in the aforesaid methodology for all future auction of coal blocks in the country.

(b) As per methodology if the successful bidder consumes the coal produced either in its own plant(s) or plant of its holding, subsidiary, affiliate, associate for coal gasification or sells the coal for coal gasification process, a rebate of 20% on the percentage revenue share quoted by the successful bidder will be allowed on the total quantity of coal consumed or sold or both for gasification on an yearly basis, subject to the following conditions:

1. at least 10% of scheduled coal production as per approved mining plan for that year shall be consumed or sold for gasification;
2. that Coal Controller's certification would be required for the quantity of coal consumed or sold or both for gasification.

(c) Methodology for auction of coal and lignite mines / blocks for sale of coal/ lignite on revenue sharing basis have been issued on 28.05.2020. Salient features are as under:

1. Based on Revenue sharing mechanism. Floor percentage at 4%; bid increment In multiples of 0.5% upto revenue share of 10% & thereafter, in multiples of 0.25.
2. Applicable to fully explored as well as partially explored coal blocks under the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Act, 2015 [CM(SP) Act] and Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 [MM(DR) Act].
3. Upfront amount is based on value of estimated geological reserves, *i.e.* 0.25% of value of estimated geological resources upto a maximum of ₹100 crores for GR up to 200 MT and 500 crores for GR above 200 MT.

4. The upfront amount is payable in four equal installments and the amount so paid is adjustable against revenue share payable.
5. Successful Bidder to pay monthly revenue share to be determined as a product of (i) %revenue share quoted, (ii) total quantity of coal on which royalty is payable during the month and (iii) notional or actual price whichever is higher.
6. Incentives for early production and for gasification and liquefaction of coal.
7. Exploitation of Coal Bed Methane is allowed.
8. There shall be no restriction on the sale and/ or utilisation of coal from the coal mine. The successful bidder shall be free to sell coal in any manner as may be decided by the successful bidder including sale to affiliates and related parties, utilise coal for any purpose including but not limited to captive consumption, gasification, liquefaction and export of coal.
9. More flexibility in coal production schedule.
10. Provides for relinquishment of coal block by the successful bidder of partially explored coal mine.
11. Development of National Coal Index; to be published bi-monthly.

(d) The following steps are taken by the Government to minimise imports from other countries:

1. Constitution of An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) by Ministry of Coal on 29.05.2020 for the purpose of coal import substitution. The IMC is in continuous engagement with the member Ministries to suggest ways and means to reduce import of coal.
2. Development of an Import Data System by Ministry of Coal to enable the Ministry to track the imports of coal.
3. An online portal by Coal India Limited to register the requests of coal consumers willing for import substitution of coal.
4. Administrative Ministries holding one to one meeting with coal consumers to resolve the issues faced by the consumers. Ministry of Power / CEA has conducted three meetings with the power producers and Ministry of Steel,

Department of Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT) and Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME) have also conducted one meeting each with the coal consumers.

Safety of coal mine workers

3. DR. VIKAS MAHATME: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that as per Directorate General of Mine Safety, from June 2016 to June 2019, 417 miners with 238 being coal miners were killed due to mine accidents;

(b) if so, steps taken by Government to penalize the offenders and the extent to which success has been achieved with these steps; and

(c) steps taken by Government to strengthen safety standards and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) As per data available with Directorate General of Mine Safety, 391 miners were killed out of which 213 miners were coal miners due to mine accidents during June 2016 to June 2019.

(b) Following steps are taken to penalize the offenders:

1. Warning to delinquent
2. Suspension of certificate
3. Modification in the method of working
4. Action by management like stoppage of increment, dismissal from service, recorded
5. warning, withholding promotion and
6. Prosecution in the court of law

(c) The matters relating to safety, health and welfare of persons employed in the mines are dealt with under the Mines Act, 1952, Rule and Regulations made thereunder. Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India administers this Act for ensuring safety in the mines in the country.