GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.39
TO BE ANSWERED ON 29.11.2021

Plan to phase-out coal

39.   SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government has formalised a plan to phase-out coal over the next fifteen years, as committed;

(b)   if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c)   whether Government has a plan to provide alternate employment to the 10 to 15 million citizens already working in the industry;

(d)   whether Government has a plan to ramp up production of alternative energies in line with the committed timeline; and

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

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES

(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a)&(b):   Coal is the most important and abundant fossil fuel in India and accounts for 55% of the country's energy need. Commercial primary energy consumption in India has grown by about 700% in the last four decades. The current per capita commercial primary energy consumption in India is about 350 kgoe/year. Coal is not only the primary source of energy in the country but is also used as an intermediary by many industries such as steel, sponge iron, cement, paper, brick-kilns etc. Similarly, with increase in growth of industries using coal, their demand for coal has also been increasing; hence, there has been an overall increase in the demand of coal over the years.

Being an affordable source of energy with substantial reserve, coal is going to stay as major source of energy in the foreseeable future. Despite push for renewables, country will require base load capacity of coal-based generation for stability and also for energy security.

(c):   Question does not arise in view of answer to part (a)&(b) above.

(d)&(e):   The Government has set a target for installing 175 GW of renewable Energy capacity (excluding large hydro) by the year 2022 which includes 100 GW from solar, 60 GW from wind, 10 GW from Biomass and 5 GW from Small Hydro.
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