

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1944
TO BE ANSWERED ON 21.03.2022**

Decline of coal production in the country

1944 Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu:

Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the total coal production in India registered a decline during the last three years and, if so, Government's reaction thereto;
- (b) whether Coal India Ltd (CIL) and NLCIL have decided to replace the huge fleet of heavy earth moving machine equipment running on diesel with Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and, if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government has entered into any contract with GAIL in this regard and, if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER
MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)**

(a): The details of the total coal production in the country during the last three years from 2018-2019 to 2020-2021 is given below:

<i>(Quantity in Million Tonne)</i>	
Years	Actual Production
2018-19	728.72
2019-20	730.87
2020-21*	716.08
* Provisional	

Owing to Covid -19 pandemic, the subdued demand in power and non-power sector during 2020-2021 had adversely affected coal despatch from the coal companies. The coal production of the country got regulated due to high level of coal inventory and less demand from the coal consumers.

(b): Coal India Ltd has taken an initiative for introduction of dual fuel {Diesel – Liquefied natural gas (LNG)} operation in the existing diesel dumpers of the company through a pilot project for techno - economic feasibility study including effect on reduction of carbon emission. At present Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLCIL) has no proposal to convert heavy earth moving machine equipment into LNGs as in NLCIL, the open cast mining operations are performed by electrically operated Specialized Mining Equipment like

Bucket Wheel Excavator, Spreaders and transportation of Lignite is done by Conveyors to pit head thermal plants. The heavy earth moving machine equipment are used only for support services. In respect of Talabira Mines, the mining operation is carried out through Mine Development Operator Mode (MDO).

(c): Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed with Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and Bharat Earth Movers Limited (BEML) for conducting the pilot project on dual - fuel (Diesel - LNG) operation by retrofitting LNG Kit in two existing diesel operated BEML make 100T Dumper at Lakhanpur Opencast project (OCP) of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd, Orissa.
