

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL**

**RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 58  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.07.2024**

**Measures to mitigate excessive methane emissions**

**58. Dr. Fauzia Khan:**

Will the Minister of **Coal** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has undertaken measures to address increased methane emissions from mines, considering the availability of cost-effective methods to substantially reduce emissions;
- (b) if so, details thereof, if not, reasons therefor;
- (c) mechanism in place to monitor, and regulate methane emissions from coal mines and identify and penalise offenders engaged in excessive emissions, details thereof;
- (d) details of steps taken to ensure that mining practices align with emission-reducing techniques recommended by international agencies, aiming to minimize methane emissions during coal extraction; and
- (e) measures taken to encourage coal mining operators to adopt cost-effective emission-reducing technologies to mitigate methane emissions?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES  
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

**(a)&(b):** In order to prepare an action plan to reduce the Greenhouse Gas(GHG) emissions from coal sector, Government has prepared a report on 'Carbon Footprint Analysis and Roadmap for Carbon Neutrality' for 2020-21, which inter-alia includes fugitive methane emissions from coal mines. For coal sector to become carbon neutral, the mitigation of fugitive methane emissions is a major challenge and there is no global practice as such to measure and control the fugitive emissions.

**(c):** There is no mechanism in place at present to monitor & regulate methane emissions. Assessment of such emissions are however undertaken at MoEF&CC level for reporting to UNFCC.

**(d):** Government has taken the following steps to minimize methane emissions during coal extraction:

- CIL and its subsidiaries have been allowed to extract coal bed methane from its coal mining leasehold areas.
- Exploitation of CBM has been permitted under commercial auction of coal mines.

- Attempts were made to extract coal mine methane (CMM) from one of the mines of BCCL in Jharia Coalfield.
- Allocation of coal-bearing area for extraction of coal bed methane prior to coal extraction.

**(e):** In accordance with the NDC targets set out by the Government, every coal company is required to reduce its emission intensity to help the Government in achieving reduction in emission intensity of its GDP by 45% from 2005 levels by 2030.

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