

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 44
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.11.2024**

Depletion of resources of coal

44. Dr. M. Thambidurai:

Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that coal resources in the country are depleting, if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether there is an urgent need to increase investment in Research and Development in coal technologies and in identifying new sources, domestic and overseas, of this invaluable commodity; and
- (c) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

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

(a): No, Sir. Coal resources in the country are not depleting. As per the coal inventory published by the Geological Survey of India (GSI), coal resources have been steadily augmented year-on-year through exploration activities. The coal resources as on 01.04.2024 stand at **389421.34 Million tonnes (MT)**, compared to **352125.97 Million tonnes** as on 01.04.2021. The detailed year-wise data of coal resources and net addition in coal resource are as under:

Year (as on 1st April)	Total Coal Resources (MT)	Augmentation in coal Resource w.r.t. previous year (MT)
2021	352,125.97	8,105.13
2022	361,411.46	9,285.49
2023	378,207.28	16,795.82
2024	389,421.34	11,214.06

(b) & (c): So far as identification of new sources is concerned, continuous exploration of coal and lignite is being conducted through Central Sector scheme (CSS) of Government of India and through its coal companies to find out new coal resources as well as ensure extraction by projectisation of coal blocks.

Further, Ministry of Coal has taken initiatives for identifying new sources of energy through Research and Development (R&D) for long term sustainability. Sufficient funds have been earmarked for R&D initiatives for this purpose. Following research projects have been undertaken:

- (i) Indigenous Development of Monolithic Perovskite Module Manufacturing by Printing to develop a pilot plant for large area printable perovskite modules.
- (ii) Bi-facial Perovskite Module - Leading to 4-T Perovskite-Si Tandem Structure to develop a prototype bifacial perovskite module that leads to the 4-terminal Perovskite-Si tandem structure.
- (iii) Pilot project for establishment of Geo-thermal energy power at Manuguru area of SCCL.
- (iv) Pilot project for Underground Coal Gasification (UCG) taken up by Eastern Coalfields Limited, a subsidiary of Coal India Limited CIL.
