

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1724
TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.12.2025

Impact of Coal Mining Expansion

1724: Smt. Sangeeta Kumari Singh Deo:

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

(a) whether the Government has assessed the impact of the recent expansion of coal mining in Angul district of Odisha where coal production has risen from 96.73 MT in 2021-22 to 115.06 MT in 2023-24, on land diversion patterns including the 1,077 hectare diverted for mining between 2020 and 2023 and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the number and present operational status of coal blocks in Angul including the projected timelines for new projects such as Subhadra and Balabhadra and the mitigation conditions imposed during approval;

(c) whether any cumulative impact assessment has been undertaken for the 66 coal blocks in Angul district to evaluate pressures created by compact, high-density mining clusters; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure that mining plans, transportation routes and ancillary infrastructure do not intensify human-wildlife interface risks in areas adjoining active coalfields?

ANSWER

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

(a) Yes, the Government has assessed the impact of the recent increase in coal production in Angul district rising from 96.73 MT in 2021-22 to 116.089 MT in 2023-24 in the following projects through the statutory processes of Environmental Clearance (EC) and EIA-EMP appraisal undertaken by the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC).

Sl. No	Name of the Project & Capacity	Available EC capacity in MT from 2021-22 till 2023-24	Production details (in MT)		
			2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
1	Ananta OC Expn.	20	13.58	17.09	19.999
2	Jagannath OC Expn.	7.5	7.03	7.50	7.50
3	Bhubaneswari OCP Expn.	28Mty in 21-22 and 30 Mty from 2022-23	28.00	30.00	24.235

4	Bharatpur OC Expn.	20	9.25	9.252	11.12
6	Balram OCP	8	6.53	7.739	7.74
7	Hingula-II OCP	15	7.74	12.38	13.059
8	Lingaraj OC Expn.	20	14.46	16.51	17.539
9	Kaniha OCP	14	10.10	12.151	11.811
10	Talcher UG	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.00
11	Nandira UG	0.33	0.06	0.06	0.056
12	Utkal D&E	4.0	0.00	0.00	2.00
13	Utkal C	3.37	0.00	0.00	1.03
	Total	142.47	96.75	113.99	116.089

From the above table, all the mines have increased production within their EC permissible limits only.

(b) The details of coal blocks in Angul District are as follows :

i. There are 25 blocks under the command area of Mahanadi Coalfield Limited in Angul District. Out of this, 19 coal blocks are projectized, status of which is attached in **Annexure-1**.

ii. In addition, 19 coal blocks have been allocated by the Nominated Authority (Ministry of Coal) in Angul district of Odisha. Out of these, four blocks have commenced production as on date. Status is attached in **Annexure-2**.

The expected timelines for new projects of MCL are as under:

I. Subhadra OCP: FY 2027-28

II. Balabhadra OCP: FY 2028-29

The mitigation measures of Subhadra & Balbhadra opencast greenfield mines in Angul are as under in tabular form:

Project	EC Capacity (MTY)	EC Date	Status
Subhadra OC	25	06.03.2024	<p>Few Specific conditions imposed in EC are as follows.</p> <p>a. Greenbelt development on approximately 426.15 hectares (38% of lease area) with a survival rate of 70%.</p> <p>b. Dust suppression measures such as fog cannons, mist sprinklers, and wind barriers at coal stockyards.</p> <p>c. Installation of Continuous Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations (CAAQMS) and real-time data display.</p> <p>d. Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) and Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) for zero discharge of untreated water.</p> <p>e. Occupational health safeguards, including periodic medical examinations and safety equipment.</p>

		<p>f. Reclamation plan covering 965.45 hectares, including agricultural use, plantation, and water harvesting structures.</p> <p>g. CSR and Public Hearing commitments for healthcare, education, water supply, and infrastructure development in nearby villages.</p> <p>Other conditions as prescribed in EC, FC, CTE, CTO, CGWA NOC, HWA letters are available in MCL website: https://www.mahanadicoal.in/Environment/estatutorycp.php</p>
Balbhadra OC	Yet to obtain	<i>Environmental Clearance application process of Balbhadra Project from MoEF&CC is underway. The EC would have details of the mitigation conditions once it is issued.</i>

(c) & (d): Though no such broader study of cumulative impact assessment has been undertaken for the 66 coal blocks in Angul district to evaluate pressures created by the compact, high-density mining clusters, the cumulative impact assessment for Bhubaneswari, Jagannath, Balram & Subhadra opencast mines have been undertaken, which are nearer to most of the mines operating in Talcher Coalfield of Angul district.

All the coal mine projects are operated after obtaining Forest Diversion as per Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhinyam, 1980. Further the following steps are taken to address the human wildlife interface risks in areas adjoining active coalfields.

1. In compliance to the conditions, Site Specific Wildlife Management Plan is approved by PCCF (WL) & CWLW, Odisha and implemented by the State Forest Deptt. at project cost which is deposited in CAMPA.
2. Additionally, cost for Regional Wildlife Management Plan is deposited in CAMPA for further implementation.
3. Provisioning animal passage plan wherever required.
4. Undertaking awareness campaigns in coordination with VSS committees, local village committees.

In addition to the above, other measures such as compensatory afforestation, Soil Moisture Conservation etc. for flourishing the wildlife habitat are undertaken in coordination with State Forest Deptt. as compliance measures.

The project proponent ensures reduced traffic intensity of coal trucks by implementation of Conveyor & Silo arrangement thereby maximizing rail despatch of coal. Besides, thick green belts, dust suppression measures like fog canon, road sweeper, mobile sprinklers are in place to protect from the risks on human and wildlife.

Transportation routes, specifically coal corridors, have been established that do not pass through nearby habitations, and speed restrictions are enforced in sensitive zones.

Sl. No.	Name of Block	Projectised/ Non- Projectised	Remarks/Timelines
1	Ananta & Dip Extn.	Projectized	Projectised for Ananta OCP
2	Bhubaneswari & Dip Extn.	Projectized	Projectised for Bhubaneswari OCP
3	Lingaraj	Projectized	Projectised for Lingaraj OCP
4	Balabhadra	Projectized	Projectised for Balabhadra OCP, Mine is yet to be operational.
5	Jagannath	Projectized	Projectised for Jagannath OCP.
6	Padma	Projectized	Projectised for Jagannath OCP and Bharatpur OCP
7	Bharatpur Comb.	Projectized	Projectised for Bharatpur OCP
8	Kalinga East	Projectized	Projectised for Bharatpur OCP & Balaram OCP
9	Kalinga West	Projectized	Projectised for Balaram OCP
10	(Baitarani East)	Non- Projectized	Part projectized for Chhendipada OCP, and the mine has been closed due to exhaustion of reserve. PR for the non projectized part under finalisation. Timeline for operation- 2031-32
11	Deulbera	Projectized	Projectised for Deulbera UG mine. Mine has been closed due to safety reason.
12	Gopalprasad East & Eastern part of Gopalprasad West	Projectized	Projectised for Hingula OCP
13	Handidua	Projectized	Projectised for Handidhua UG mine. Mine has been closed due to safety reason.
14	Kaniha-Neelachal	Projectized	Projectised for Kaniha OCP
15	Nandira	Projectized	Projectised for Nandira OCP
16	Nataraj	Projectized	The block was projectized for Natraj UG mine, However, the mine has been shelved out due to viability of the project.
17	South Balanda	Projectized (Exhausted)	Projectised for South Balanda OCP. Reserve exhausted.
18	Talcher	Projectized	Projectised for Talcher UG mine.
19	Western part of Gopalprasad West	Projectized	Projectised for Subhadra OCP, the mine is yet to be operationalised.
20	Utkal A	Projectized	Timeline- 2027-28
21	Konark-Subhadra West Comb.	Not Projectized	GR prepared. Timeline is yet to be finalised.
22	Balabhadra North Extn.	Not Projectized	PR for Balabhadra (N&W) Extension OCP under finalisation. Timeline-2031-32
23	Balabhadra West Extn.	Not Projectized	
24	Rabipur	Not Projectized	Under Exploration. Timeline is yet to be finalised.
25	Tribira	Not Projectized	Under Exploration. Timeline is yet to be finalised.
	25 blocks		

SN.	Name of the coal block	Status of the coal block	Expected year of Operationalisation
1	Naini	Producing	Producing
2&3	Utkal D & E	Producing	Producing
4	Utkal C	Producing	Producing
5	Baitarni West	In process of obtaining statutory approvals/clearances	FY27
6	Mandakini	In process of obtaining statutory approvals/clearances	FY27
7	Radhikapur (West)	In process of obtaining statutory approvals/clearances	FY28
8	Utkal A	MOP granted, however production is yet to start	FY26
9	Bankhui	GR preparation stage	FY29
10&11	Utkal B1 & B2	Utkal B1: MOP granted, however production is yet to start Utkal B2: In process of obtaining statutory approvals/clearances	FY28
12	Alaknanda	In process of obtaining statutory approvals/clearances	FY28
13	Chendipada (Revised)	GR preparation stage	FY29
14	Sakhigopal-B Kankili	GR preparation stage	FY29
15	Kudanali Lubri	GR preparation stage	FY30
16	Machhakata (Revised)	In process of obtaining statutory approvals/clearances	FY29
17	Sakhigopal-B Kakurhi	GR preparation stage	FY30
18	New Patrapara South	GR preparation stage	FY30
19	Saradhapur Jalatap East	GR preparation stage	FY31
