

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL AND MINES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1510  
ANSWERED ON:16.07.2004  
DECREASE IN PRODUCTION FROM MINES  
Handique Shri Bijoy Krishna

**Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the production of coal and other minerals from the underground and open cast mines have been declining during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of coal and other minerals?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL & MINES(DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

a): Production of coal in open cast mine is increasing continuously but there is a decline in production of coal from underground mines, in the overall production mix while the production targets are being met. Production of other minerals have shown overall increase during the last three years.

b) Reasons for decline in underground production in the coal mines are as under:-

- i) With time existing underground mines are becoming more extensive and more difficult.
- ii) Easy workable coal seams at shallow depth have been exhausted.
- iii) In many mines working seams are overlain by caved goaves of worked out seams filled with water which restricts the production.
- iv) Old mining technology has to be continued in number of mines as the nature of existing workings are not amenable to mechanisation.

The following steps have been taken to increase production from underground coal mines.

- i) Study has been made for underground mines of CIL for possible scope of mechanisation.
- ii) Suitable locales are being identified for mechanisation with mass production technology with continuous mine and Longwall powered support.
- iii) All new mines are being planned with mechanisation with infrastructure.
- iv) Manual loaders will be replaced by mechanised loaders like Side Discharge Loader(SDL)/Load Haul Dumpers (LHDs) as far as practicable.