

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3151  
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2006  
NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR EXPLOITATION OF COAL  
Barman Shri Ranen

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

- (a) whether the Government plans to introduce a new technology for the exploitation of coal deposits in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the nature of the technology presently being used;
- (d) the extent to which the present technology compares with that advanced countries; and
- (e) the time by which the advanced technology would be introduced in the country?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARINARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (e): For exploitation of coal deposits, a continuance thrust towards mechanization and upgradation of technology in coal mines, underground as well as opencast, is being given by the coal companies.

At the time of nationalization of coal sector in India, underground(UG) coal mining was dominated by conventional Bord & Pillar methods using drilling, blasting, manual loading on to tubs, supporting by timbers and transportation of tubs by series of rope haulages. Thereafter, many of UG mines in CIL have been gradually mechanized by introducing side discharge loaders, load haul dumpers, belt conveyors, roof bolting machines etc.

Continuous Miner technology and Powered Support Longwall technology are globally accepted mass production technologies. These have also been tried in some mines of CIL for obtaining higher production, productivity and safety.

Dragline and shovel dumper operations are most common technologies in opencast coal mines all over world. This technology is also being used in the mines of Coal India Ltd. and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. In line with global trend of using higher capacity heavy earth moving machinery, CIL has also planned to introduce higher , -capacity equipment in some of its large opencast projects. In addition depending on the requirement, inpit crushing conveying and surface miner technologies have also been incorporated in some opencast mines.

Besides, harnessing of Coal Bed Methane and Coal Mine Methane and introduction of technologies for Coal Liquefaction and Underground Coal Gasification are also on the agenda.