

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 859
TO BE ANSWERED ON 22.12.2017**

Rise in import of coal from North America

**859. SHRI R. VAITHILINGAM:
SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH:**

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that India's coal imports from North America quadrupled to 2.1 million tonnes in October, 2017 from a year ago, the highest since January, 2015;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that buyers are looking to boost purchases amid a shortage of the fuel;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government, on the other hand, is trying to curtail import of coal; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND RAILWAYS
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

(a): As per Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), a small quantity of coal was imported (including Coal, Coke and Briquettes etc.) from USA during October, 2017 viz. 1.07 MT (against 0.36 MT imported in January, 2015).

(b)to(d): As per the current import policy, coal is kept under Open General License (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal from the source of their choice as per their contractual prices on payment of applicable duty. However, Coal imports have fallen from 217.78 Mte in 2014-15 to 203.95 Mte. in 2015-16 and further to 190.95 Mte. in 2016-17. The trend of fall in import of coal has continued in 2017-18. As per (DGCI&S), during April-October, 2017-18, 118.86 Mte. (Provisional) of coal was imported as compared to 121.14 Mte. in the corresponding period of 2016-17 showing a decline of 1.9%. The fall in imports is largely on account of enhanced production by CIL. The vendible stock of CIL has increased from 53.47 Mt. as on 01.04.2015 to 68.42 Mt. as on 01.04.2017. The off-take / dispatch of coal of CIL has also increased from 488.86 Mt in 2014-15 to 543.16 Mt. in 2016-17. However, the gap between demand and supply of coal cannot be bridged completely as there is insufficient domestic availability of coking coal and power plants designed on imported coal will continue to import coal for their production.

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