

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1181
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.07.2018

Higher ash content in coal

1181. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR :

Will the **MINISTER OF COAL** be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Indian coal has comparatively higher ash content than imported coal;
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) whether certain coal companies are supplying coal to their customers with ash content of more than 40 per cent;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor along with the action taken by Government against such coal companies;
- (e) the steps taken/being taken by Government to produce coal in the country at par with the international standards; and
- (f) the steps taken/being taken by Government to ensure the maximum use of Indian coal in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COAL, FINANCE AND CORPORATE AFFAIRS
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a) : Ash content of coal produced in the country is generally 25 to 45 % whereas average ash content of imported coal varies from 10 to 20 %.

(b) : Indian Coal has comparatively higher ash content than imported coal due to drift origin of formation of coal deposits in India; the resultant coal seams formed contains higher ash as compared to seams formed from the in-situ process.

(c) & (d) : As per Ministry of Environment and Forest & Climate Change (MOEF&CC) stipulation, coal based thermal power plant (situated beyond 500 km from the pit-head) be supplied with, and shall use, raw or blended or beneficiated coal with ash content not exceeding thirty-four percent, on quarterly average basis. Coal Companies are supplying coal to their customers maintaining ash percentage below 34% on quarterly average basis as per the aforesaid MOEF&CC stipulation.

(e) : Coal India Limited has taken following steps to adopt international standards in Coal Mining:

1. Deployment of surface miners (during 2017-18 around 49% of total opencast production achieved using surface miner) for selective mining;

2. Deployment of high capacity Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM) i.e. up to 240 Te dumpers and up to 42 Cu.m bucket capacity shovels;
3. Replacement of manual method of underground mining by mechanized and semi-mechanized mining method.

(f) : 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.

In view of the adequate production and availability of domestic coal, it has been an endeavour to reduce the import of coal by power plants and to substitute it with domestic coal supply. In this regard, Coal India Limited (CIL) has taken the following steps for promotion of substituting imported coal with indigenous coal:

1. Rationalization of sources by part of coal supply coming from sources of higher grade coal.
2. Offering coal from various sources including higher grades through various types of e-auction schemes including special forward e-auction for power sector.
3. Taking initiatives like flexible tenure of coal lifting and other measures for ease of doing business.
4. Sanction of coal linkages under SHAKTI policy.

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 consumption.
