GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 34
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2022

Reduction in import of Coal

34. SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken for reducing coal import in the country;
(b) whether there is any possibility of reduction in the import of coal in the financial year 2022-23; and
(c) if so, the reasons for the decrease in the import and the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a)to(c): Coal is the mainstay of Indian energy system and about 70% of the total electricity generation is coal based. India met 20% of the total coal demand from import during 2021-22. Import of coking coal for Steel Industry and other high quality coal for blending and industrial uses which constitutes about 65% of the total import is presently non-substitutable as domestic production is inadequate. Thus, the objective is to reduce substitutable coal import of relatively lower grade.

India imported 209 MT of coal of different grades in 2021-22 including substitutable thermal coal. In view of substitutability of thermal grade coal import by domestic coal, import of coal is projected at 148 MT in 2022-23 which is 29% less compared to 209 MT of coal imported in 2021-22

For augmenting domestic production of coal, several steps have been taken up by the Government. Some of the important steps taken are noted as below:-

- Auction of coal blocks to private parties including Captive Power Plants.
- Commercial Auction of coal blocks on revenue sharing basis.
- Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 amended to allow sale of coal or lignite of captive mines up to 50 percent of total annual production.
- The government has launched Single Window Clearance portal on 11.01.2021 for the coal sector to speed up the operationalisation of coal mines

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