

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.839
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2022**

Shortage of coal

839 SHRI BRIJLAL:

Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has paid attention to the increasing demand for electricity and shortage of coal in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has amended the procedure for utilization of coal allocated to the States by private power generation stations and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the measures taken by Government to ensure more efficient utilization of domestic coal; and
- (d) the other measures taken by Government to meet the high demand of electricity in the States/UTs during the summer season?

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

(a): In 2022-2023 (April, 2022 to June, 2022), all India average gap between the Energy Requirement and Energy Supplied was only 1%. Gap between energy demand and supply is generally on account of factors other than inadequacy of power availability in the country, e.g. constraints in distribution network, financial constraints, commercial reasons, forced outage of generating units, etc.

There is no shortage of coal in the country. The all India coal production in the year 2021-2022 was 778.19 Million Tonne (MT) in comparison to 716.083 MT in the year 2020-2021. Further, in the current financial year (upto June'22), the country has produced 204.876 MT of coal as compared to 156.11 MT during the same period of last year with a growth of about 31%.

(b): The Government on 4th May, 2016 allowed States to use their coal in any private generating stations (IPPs) selected through e-bidding process and take equivalent power. The methodology named flexibility in utilization of domestic coal (Case-4) has been issued on 20th February, 2017 by Ministry of Power.

(c): Adoption of technologies for Efficiency Improvement: Supercritical technology and Ultra Super-Critical Technology for thermal power generation

having improved efficiency of thermal power stations have already been adopted. This will lead to reduction in fossil fuel consumption and thereby reducing CO2 emissions.

As per Government approval, Annual Contracted Quantity (ACQ) per Mega Watt (MW) entitlement of all power plants, irrespective of age or technical parameters, shall be calculated based on normative station heat rate with upper ceiling of 2600 kcal/kwh. Accordingly, in view of efficient utilization of coal in efficient units, normative coal requirement of less efficient power plants with heat rate above 2600 Kcal/Kwh has been limited to coal corresponding to 2600 kcal/kwh.

(d): To address the issues of coal supplies to power sector, an Inter-Ministerial Sub Group comprising of representatives from Ministries of Power, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Railways, CEA, CIL and SCCL meet regularly to take various operational decisions to enhance supply of coal to thermal power plants as well as for meeting any contingent situations relating to Power Sector including to alleviate critical coal stock position in power plants. In addition to this, an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) has been constituted comprising of Chairman, Railway Board, Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and Secretary, Ministry of Power to monitor augmentation of coal supply and power generation capacity. Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and Chairperson, CEA are co-opted as Special Invitees as and when required by the IMC. Coal dispatch from the captive coal blocks is also being monitored regularly.

Coal India Limited, the largest supplier of coal in the country, has dispatched 152.49 MT of coal to Power Sector in the first quarter of the current fiscal surpassing all the previous highs of the same period and achieving a growth of 19% over last year same period. Similarly, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has dispatched 14.43 MT of coal to Power Sector in the first quarter of the current fiscal achieving a growth of 4.1% over last year same period. As per Central Electricity Authority (CEA), coal stock at the power plants has improved from the level of 25.6 MT as on 31.03.2022 to 28.3 MT on 18.07.2022.

Ministry of Power vide OM dated 28.04.2022 has advised power plants to import coal for blending purposes during 2022-23 to meet requirement at 10% (by weight) of the total requirement.
