

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1312  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.12.2022**

**Coal Transportation**

**1312. Shri Ayodhya Rami Reddy Alla:**

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

- (a) the details of coal transported through Railways in the past five years;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps to diversify coal transportation through other modes of transportation, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government monitors the environmental impact of coal transportation through rake wagons, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps being taken by Government to reduce the environmental impact of coal transportation through rake wagons?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES**

**(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)**

**(a):** Details of coal transported through railways in the past five years are given below:-

YEAR	Coal Loading (in Million Tonnes)
2017-18	555.20
2018-19	605.84
2019-20	586.87
2020-21	541.82
2021-22	652.80

**(b):** Coal companies dispatch coal as per Freight on Board (FOB) basis and consumers have the liberty to lift coal in various modes such as rail, road and captive modes (Merry Go Round (MGR), Belt, Rope etc) as per their choice. Rail Sea Route (RSR) is also being used by some consumers for coal transportation. It was decided that power plants located within 20 km from pithead would construct elevated closed conveyor belt and the power plants located within 40 km from pithead would construct MGR.

**(c) & (d):** Railway Board has issued guidelines/directions to all Zonal Railways in April 2018, for action to be taken with regard to handling of pollution intensive commodities at siding and goods sheds in accordance with the provisions of State Pollution Control Board.

During coal transportation through rake wagons, pollution is mainly caused during loading of coal by payloaders. To reduce the pollution caused by payloaders during loading of coal, Coal India Limited (CIL) has taken steps to upgrade the coal loading to mechanized coal loading system under 'First Mile Connectivity' projects.

Ministry of Railways informed that additional free time of one hour per rake has been permitted for covering open wagons with tarpaulins during loading of loose / bulk commodity (e.g Coal & Coke etc, for which packing condition P2(a) is prescribed in the Goods Tariff) at all kinds of freight terminals.

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