

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2913
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.03.2023

Increasing coal imports

2913. SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of total coal imported in the country in the last five years, year-wise;
- (b) whether the coal import bill has increased exponentially in last few years, if so, the details thereof, year-wise;
- (c) the details of the current status of Government's plan to stop coal import from the year 2024-25;
- (d) whether Government is on track to achieve its target of stopping coal imports by 2024-25; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): The details of coal imported in last five years and their values are given as follows:

(Quantity in Million Tonne & Value in Million Rs.)						
Year	Coking Coal		Non Coking Coal		Total Coal	
	Qty	Value Rs.	Qty	Value Rs.	Qty	Value Rs.
2017-18	47.003	595226.36	161.245	789543.41	208.249	1384769.77
2018-19	51.838	720497.64	183.510	988707.26	235.348	1709204.90
2019-20	51.833	612668.32	196.704	914652.23	248.537	1527320.55
2020-21	51.198	453552.10	164.054	706688.44	215.251	1160240.54
2021-22	57.161	1029958.47	151.772	1257459.99	208.934	2287418.46
2022-23 (Dec 22)	43.208	1240261.774	142.851	1872213.394	186.059	3112475.169

(c) to (e): The measures taken for reduction of coal imports are given below:

(i) Thrust is on enhancement of domestic coal production which is the key to achieve self-reliance and reduce dependence on imported coal. In the year 2021-22, coal production increased by 8.67% over the previous year. During the current year till February, 2023, domestic coal production has increased over 15% compared to the same period of last year. The domestic coal production is targeted to reach around 1112 MT in 2024-25.

(ii) Major initiatives taken to increase domestic production of coal include Single Window Clearance, amendment of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 to allow captive mines to sell up to 50% of their annual production after meeting the requirement of the end use plant, production through MDO model, increasing use of modern technologies such as surface miner, continuous miner etc., taking up new projects and expansion of existing projects, and auction of coal blocks to private companies/PSUs. 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed for commercial mining.

(iii) Further an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) has been constituted for the purpose of coal import substitution comprising representatives from Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Power, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Steel, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Coal India Limited, SCCL, Paradip Port Trust, Vishakhapatnam Port Trust and Kolkata Port Trust. This Committee provides a platform for discussions on a larger forum with the Administrative Ministries so as to guide them to encourage the coal consumers of their respective sector to eliminate imports of coal.
