

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.3555
TO BE ANSWERED ON 03.04.2023

High-end coal imported from abroad

3555. DR. M. THAMBIDURAI:
DR. KANIMOZHI NVN SOMU:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government depends on private companies for high-end coal imported from abroad;
- (b) the total quantity and value in INR of high-grade coal imported in the last five years, year-wise and the effective measures taken by Government to reduce the reliance on imported coal in future;
- (c) whether Government is facing any problem to take adequate measures to meet the demand and supply of high-grade coal for various industrial sectors, due to its commitment to reduce carbon foot prints; and
- (d) the remedial action taken by Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a): As per 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.

(b): The quantity and value of coal imported in the last five years are given below.

Import of coal Last five years (Figure in Million Tonnes and Value in Million Rs.)

Years	ANTHRACITE COAL		Coking		Non-coking		Total	
	QTY	Value	QTY	Value	QTY	Value	QTY	Value
2017-18	1.62	15274.18	47.00	595226.36	159.63	774269.23	208.25	1384769.77
2018-19	1.83	20381.53	51.84	720497.64	181.68	968325.73	235.35	1709204.90
2019-20	1.82	18041.49	51.83	612668.32	194.89	896610.74	248.54	1527320.55
2020-21	1.96	17002.38	51.20	453552.10	162.09	689686.06	215.25	1160240.54
2021-22	2.30	34023.93	57.16	1029958.47	149.47	1223436.06	208.93	2287418.46
2022-23 (Apr-Jan)	1.74	39278.39	47.77	1338650.27	150.89	1941839.19	200.41	3319767.84

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.

(c)&(d): As of now, most of the requirement of coal in the country is met through domestic production. However, some high grade coal like coking coal, anthracite and low ash thermal coal, used by imported coal based (ICB) power plants, are essential to import as their domestic production is non-available. The focus of the Government is on increasing the domestic production of coal and to eliminate non-essential import of coal in the country.
