

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF COAL**  
**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1643**  
**TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.12.2023**

**Coal for power generation**

**1643 Shri C. Ve. Shanmugam:**

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that coal energy consumption in the country has grown exponentially in the last four decades;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the steps taken by Government to supply coal for the power generation or domestic use, coal field-wise; and
- (d) whether Government has been exploring more coal fields in the country and especially in Tamil Nadu, if so, the details thereof?

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

**(a) & (b) :** The total coal consumption in the year 1983-84 was 130.73 Million Tonne (MT) in comparison to 1115.037 MT (Provisional) in the year 2022-23 with a growth of around 753%.

**(c):** Supply of coal to the power plants is a continuous process. To address the issues of coal supplies to Power Sector, an Inter-Ministerial Sub Group comprising of representatives from Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Railways, Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (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.

Besides, an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) has also 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.

**(d):** Finding new areas for mining coal and lignite through exploration in the country including the State of Tamil Nadu is a continuous process. There is one sub-scheme i.e. Promotional (Regional) exploration continuing through Central Sector Scheme (CSS) of Ministry of Coal for exploration of new areas of coal & lignite. In addition to this Geological Survey of India (GSI) also carries out investigation of minerals including coal.

\*\*\*\*\*