GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO- 47
ANSWERED ON- 20/07/2026

COAL PRODUCTION IN THE COUNTRY

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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :-

(a) whether Government has achieved the annual coal production targets set for 2025-26;

(b) the details of domestic coal production and imports during the last three years;

(c) whether dependence on imported coal continues for power and industrial sectors; and

(d) the measures being taken to achieve self-sufficiency in coal production?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES
(SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY)

(a): During the year 2025–26, domestic coal production was 1,040.08 Million Tonnes (MT) against the target of 1,157 MT, achieving approximately 90% of the annual production target. The coal stocks at pitheads during the year 2025-26 increased to an all time high of 151.96 MT, and the coal requirement for all the domestic coal-consuming sectors was adequately met.

(b): Domestic coal production and imports during the last three years is given below in the table:-

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Domestic Production	Imports
2023-24	997.83	264.53
2024-25	1047.52	243.62
2025-26	1040.08	246.37

(c): Coal imports have decreased about 7 % in 2024-25 compared to corresponding period of last financial year (2023-24). Minor increase in coal import of around 1% during 2025-26 has been reported compared to corresponding period of last financial year (2024-25). Category-wise comparison of Non-Coking coal imports is as under:-

(In Million Tonnes)

Year	Power Sector	Non-Regulated Sector	Non-Coking Coal Import
2023-24	65.73	139.99	205.72
2024-25	62.57	123.48	186.05
2025-26	45.38	134.66	180.04
Growth(%) 2024-25 to 2025-26	-27.47	9.06	-3.23

Major factors affecting the import dependency of coal are as under: -

i. High Grade Coking Coal required by Steel Industry: Steel industry requires large quantity of high-grade coking coal, which is a key raw material for the blast furnace process. India has limited reserves of this specific type of coal, resulting in its import to meet the demand. However, implementing Stamp Charging Battery Technology across steel plants by 2029-30 will enable 30% blending of domestic coking coal.

ii. Imported Coal Based (ICB) Power Plants: Thermal power plants along the coast are technically designed to run on imported high-grade non-coking coal, hence consume the imported coal. However, based on techno-commercial viability, certain plants have been identified for blending the domestic coal with the imported coal which would result in part substitution of such imports.

iii. Industry-specific requirements of non-coking coal: Certain industries, such as cement, captive power plants (CPPs) require coal with specific quality parameters, such as low ash content, higher calorific value or specific sulphur levels, which may not be fully available from domestic sources.

Despite the above challenges, efforts are being made to increase domestic production, and to reduce import dependence.

(d): (I) The steps taken by the Government to achieve self-sufficiency in coal production in the country are as under:

i. Enactment of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2021 for enabling captive mine owners (other than atomic minerals) to sell up to 50% of their annual mineral (including coal) production in the open market after meeting the requirement of the end use plant linked with the mine.

ii. Project Management Unit (PMU) for hand-holding of coal block allottees for obtaining various approvals/ clearances for early operationalization of coal mines.

iii. Auction of commercial mining on revenue sharing basis launched in 2020. Under this, rebate of 50% on final offer has been allowed for the quantity of coal produced earlier than scheduled date of production.

iv. Terms and conditions of commercial coal mining are liberal with no restriction on utilization of coal. It also allows for new companies to participate in the bidding process. The upfront amounts have been reduced and it is adjusted against future monthly payments.

(II) In addition to the above, coal companies have also taken the following steps to sustain the growth in coal production to meet the nation’s energy demands:

i. Coal India Limited (CIL) is executing a two-pronged approach that focuses on the expansion of existing operational mines alongside the early operationalization of new greenfield projects.

ii. Capacity expansion of mines is also being done through enhancement of Environmental Clearance (EC) under para 7(ii)(a) of EIA Notification, 2006, for expansion up to 50%, within the existing premises/ mine lease area, without additional land acquisition, wherever feasible.

iii. Mines operations are being modernized for increasing man productivity both in underground & opencast mines depending upon geo-mining conditions. CIL is adopting Mass Production Technologies (MPT) in its Underground (UG) mines, mainly Continuous Miners (CMs), wherever feasible. CIL has also envisaged working large numbers of Highwalls (HW) mines, wherever feasible. In Opencast (OC) mines, CIL already has State-of-the-Art technology in its high-capacity Excavators, Dumpers. Additionally, the use of Surface Miners in OC mines eliminates conventional drilling, blasting, and crushing operations, significantly improving efficiency and reducing environmental pollution.

iv. Capacity augmentation is also being done through implementation of projects through MDO route under which 31 Projects have been identified with a capacity of about 244 MTY for development & operation. 8 MDO projects are in coal production operational stage.

v. To improve the supply chain infrastructure, CIL is implementing 72 FMC projects to transition to mechanized, rapid silo loading and conveyor transport, minimizing road transportation and reducing turnaround times. CIL is also funding and constructing 7 major rail lines across states like Jharkhand, Odisha, and Chhattisgarh to decongest existing networks and secure reliable evacuation.

vi. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) is also opening 5 new mines and expansion of the 2 existing mines.

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