GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO-49
ANSWERED ON- 20/07/2026

COAL IMPORT DECLINE

49. SHRI I.S. INBADURAI

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has noted decline in coal imports for thermal power plants, if so, year-wise data thereof, if not, the reasons therefor and steps taken to ensure uninterrupted coal supply;

(b) whether reduction in coal imports has impacted power generation capacity, if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor, measures taken to maintain demand-supply balance; and

(c) whether domestic coal production is sufficient to meet thermal plant requirements, if so, the data thereof, if not, the reasons therefor and steps taken to augment domestic supply?

ANSWER

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

(a): The coal imported by the power plants in the country during last three years is as under:

(in Million Tonnes)

Period	Domestic Coal Based Plants (DCB)	Imported Coal Based Plants (ICB)	Total Coal imported by power plants
2023-24	23.9	41.8	65.7
2024-25	14.0	48.5	62.5
2025-26	6.8	38.6	45.4

Coal imports by thermal power plants declined from 65.7 million tonnes in 2023-24 to 45.4 million tonnes in 2025-26, recorder a decline of 30.9 percent import of coal during the period of two years. Following steps are being taken to ensure uninterrupted coal supply to power plants:

i. To address the issues of coal supplies to power sector, an Inter-Ministerial Sub Group comprising of representatives from Ministries of Power, Coal, 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.
ii. An Inter-ministerial Secretary-level meeting, comprising Secretary (Power), Secretary (Coal), and Chairman Railway Board, is held regularly to monitor coal supply to the power plants.

(b): The details of Energy requirement, Energy supplied and gap during the last three years and the financial year 2026-27 (up to June) is as below:

(in Million Units)

Financial Year	Energy Requirement (MU)	Energy Supplied (MU)	Energy not Supplied/ Gap (%)
2023-24	16,26,132	16,22,020	0.3
2024-25	16,93,959	16,92,369	0.1
2025-26	17,07,493	17,06,985	0.0
2026-27 (Upto Jun, 2026)*	4,83,117	4,82,435	0.1

*(*The data for the month of Jun 2026 is provisional.)*

It may be noted that the energy supplied has broadly remained commensurate with the energy requirement of the country, and reduction in coal imports has not adversely impacted power generation capacity.

The Government have taken the following measures to ensure an uninterrupted and reliable electricity supply across the country:

i. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by establishing power plants through Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) and making power available to the various States / UTs.
ii. Proactive monitoring of generation projects under construction to facilitate commensurate capacity addition.
iii. Hydro based generation is being scheduled in a manner so as to conserve water for meeting demand during peak period.
iv. Gas-based power plants of NTPC (National Thermal Power Corporation) as well as other generators are being scheduled during high power demand period.
v. All the GENCOs (Power Generating Companies) including IPPs (Independent Power Producers) and Central generating stations have been advised to generate and maintain full availability on daily basis excluding the period of planned maintenance or forced outage.
vi. Planned maintenance of generating units is being minimized during period of high demand.

(c): Most of the requirement of coal in the country is met through indigenous coal production. Import of coal mainly consists of essential import like coking coal (by steel industry) and higher grade non-coking coal as their domestic production is limited due to either scarce reserves or non-availability. It may be noted that power plants import coal primarily (i) due to requirement of Imported Coal Based (ICB) power plants which are specially designed to use imported coal, and (ii) for blending purpose by Domestic Coal Based (DCB) power plants.

The focus of the Government is on increasing the domestic production of coal to meet the energy requirement of the country. The country has witnessed highest ever coal production in the year 2024-25. The all India domestic coal production in the year 2024-25 was 1047.67 Million Tonnes (MT) in comparison to 997.83 MT in the year 2023-24 with the growth of about 5%. In FY 2025-26, the country has produced 1040.08 MT (Prov.) of coal in comparison to 1047.67 MT in the corresponding period of the last year 2024-25 with a growth rate of -0.65%.

The coal stock available at domestic coal-based power plants in the country was 39.09 MT as on 13.07.2026, which is sufficient to run these plants at 85% PLF (Plant Load Factor) for about 14 days at present rate of consumption. As such, there is no coal shortage at the power plants in the country. Further, a coal stock of approximately 151.96 million tonnes (MT) was available at mine end of CIL & Others as on 31.03.2026.

Further, considering the demand projected by the Ministry of Power and to ensure uninterrupted supply of coal. The following steps have been taken to augment domestic supply:

i. 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, and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) which meets regularly to take various operational decisions to enhance supply of coal to Thermal Power Plants. The meetings of the Sub-Group Committee are attended by the representatives of the power plants. Based on the requirement and the coal stock position, allocation of rakes is recommended by the Sub-Group. The Sub-Group closely monitors rake allocation and movement to maintain supply continuity. Logistical interventions by coal companies and the Sub-Group, undertaken in collaboration with Railways, ensure allocation of sufficient railway rakes to the power plants, as well as faster coal movement from coal mines to its power plants, thereby reducing transit delays & ensuring steady plant operations.
ii. Further, an Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) has also been constituted comprising of Chairman, Railway Board, Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & 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.

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