

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2793
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.01.2018**

IMPORT OF COAL FOR POWER PLANTS

2793. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN:

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

- (a) whether there is shortage of coal supply to large number of thermal power plants and due to closure of coal mines which led to the shortage;**
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to increase the import of coal for supply to thermal power plants;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the financial implication of this import; and**
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government to reduce the dependency on imported coal for domestic power production?**

A N S W E R

**THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR POWER AND
NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY**

(SHRI R. K. SINGH)

(a) : There was a drop in coal stock in the thermal power plants mainly during the 2nd quarter of 2017-18 because of heavy rains during monsoon in the mining areas which affected coal production, loading at mines and transportation of coal. Further, due to reduced generation from hydro, wind and nuclear power station, the demand from coal based power station increased.

Due to several measures taken by the Government, the availability of coal in power plants have improved. The overall coal stock in the coal based power plants have increased from 7.3 Million Tonnes (MT) as on 19.10.2017 to 12.93 MT as on 27.12.2017.

(b) & (c) : There is no proposal by the Government to increase the import of coal for supply to thermal power plants. Accordingly, no target for import of Coal during 2017-18 has been fixed and efforts have been made by all stakeholders to increase the supply of domestic coal to all the power stations.

(d) : The steps taken by the Government to reduce the dependency on imported coal for domestic power production, inter-alia, are:

- (i) The availability of coal is being regularly monitored closely to ensure that generation of power plant is not affected due to shortage of coal.**
- (ii) Coal blocks have been allotted to central/state power utilities to improve domestic coal availability.**
- (iii) The Government has introduced a scheme SHAKTI (Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala (Coal) Transparently in India)-2017, to provide coal linkages to the power plants which do not have any linkage.**
- (iv) The Government has introduced flexibility in utilization of domestic coal amongst power generating stations to reduce the cost of power generation. The State/Central Gencos would have flexibility to utilize their coal in optimum and cost effective manner in their own power plants as well as by transferring coal to other State/Central Gencos Power plants for generation of cheaper power.**
