

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2826
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.01.2018**

UNDERUTILISATION OF THERMAL POWER PLANTS

2826. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH:

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

- (a) whether various thermal power plants in the country have been constantly underutilized with regard to their power generation capacities due to shortage of coal supply to them, if so, the details thereof for the last three years along with suitable action plan for ensuring full capacity utilization of power plants, power plant and State/UT-wise;**
- (b) whether the Power Generators in various thermal power plants in the country which were supplied by BHEL have had high down time owing to technical failures, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (c) whether the Government has ascertained the economic costs associated with the non availability of power to various industries as a result of shutting down of power plants due to technical maintenance and non availability of coal, if so, the details thereof?**

A N S W E R

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

(SHRI R. K. SINGH)

(a) : As reported by the power utilities, the generation loss due to coal shortage during last three years is given at Annex. The percentage loss of generation w.r.t. the total generation was 0.24%, 0% and 0.04% during last three years i.e. 2014-15 to 2016-17.

The steps taken by the Government to ensure supply of coal to the power plants for ensuring full capacity utilization inter-alia, are:

- (i) The availability of coal is being regularly monitored closely to ensure that generation of power plants is not affected due to shortage of coal. Due to this, the overall coal stock in the coal based power plants have increased from 7.3 Million Tonnes (MT) as on 19.10.2017 to 13.2 MT as on 31.12.2017.**

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- (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.**
- (b) : The outages/down times of thermal stations depend on the design and sizing practices of utilities, operations and maintenance practices, coal quality, unit sizes and vintage etc. Large variations in outages/down times are seen amongst thermal stations for all suppliers/manufacturers. The overall outages/down times for various manufacturers including BHEL are comparable.**
- (c) : The economic costs associated with the non-availability of power to various industries as a result of shutting down of power plants due to technical maintenance and non-availability of coal has not been ascertained. As the installed generation capacity is almost two times the Electricity demand in the country, generally the power supply is not affected due to shutting down of power plants due to technical maintenances and non-availability of coal as other generating stations are able to fulfil the gap.**

ANNEX

ANNEX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2826 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 04.01.2018.

Generation loss due to coal shortage during last three years

Year	Generation loss due to coal shortage (BU)	Total Generation (BU)	% of Total Generation
2014-15	2.68	1110	0.24
2015-16	0	1173	0
2016-17	0.48	1242	0.04
