

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.6068
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.04.2018**

Shortage of Coal

6068. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether 51 power plants have been put in the category of 'Critical' and 'Very Critical' due to shortage of coal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this situation has been caused by the present rule of keeping average stock of coal only; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS AND COAL
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

(a) & (b): As per CEA report dated 27.03.2018, 26 thermal power plants have been mentioned in the category of 'critical' and 'super critical' category. Many of the power stations of the country opted to restrict the intake of coal supplies from the Coal Companies during major part of 2016-17 and in the initial months of 2017-18 when demand for power was subdued. The total coal stock with the power stations which was 38.87 Million Tonnes (MT) in the beginning of 2016-17 had reduced to about 27.74 MT by the end of 2016-17, while pithead coal stock with Coal India Limited (CIL) increased from 57.64 MT to 68.42 MT during the same period. The coal despatch from CIL during the period April, 2017 to February, 2018 grew by about 7% over the despatch during the corresponding period of 2016-17.

(c) & (d): One of the reasons for this situation has been the reluctance on the part of the power houses to stock adequate coal, as per CEA norms. The norms for number of days of coal stock to be kept in the power plant depends on the distance of the power plant from the mine-head and are as under:

Distance of Power Plant	Number of days of coal stock
Pithead Station	15
Upto 500 kms away from Coal Mine	20
Upto 1,000 kms away from Coal Mine	25
Beyond 1,000 kms away from Coal Mine	30
