GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1416
TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.07.2018

PLANT LOAD FACTOR

1416. DR. K. GOPAL:

Will the Minister of POWER
be pleased to state:

(a) whether the average plant load factor of power plants in the country is around 60%, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the country can run its plants at 80% of plant load factor but coal is a constraint;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether it is necessary to import coal when the country has sufficient quantum of coal and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the country needs to have more railway lines to transport coal to power plants for timely availability of the same and 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) : During the current year 2018-19 (upto June, 2018), the average Plant Load Factor of Coal and Lignite based power plant has increased to 63.24% as compared to 61.63% during 2017-18 (April to June, 2017). The average plant load factor of coal and lignite based power plants in the country for the year 2017-18 was 60.72.

(b) & (c) : The PLF of thermal, (coal/lignite based) units depends on a number of factors such as total energy demand, generation from other sources like hydro, nuclear, gas, renewable, etc.

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Further, the power plants including coal based power plants get schedule based on the Merit Order Dispatch (MOD) matching with the demand prevailing in the State. During high demand period, some of the power plants also run at high Plant Load Factor (PLF). During the current year 2018-19 (upto June, 2018), Budge-Budge Thermal Power Station has achieved a PLF of 97.99%, PLF of 19 power stations is more than 90% and PLF of 46 power stations is more than 80%.

(d) : Coal is imported by power plants designed on imported coal to meet their requirement. Apart from this, considering cost-economics as well as to bridge the shortfall if any, in the availability of domestic coal, some power utilities are importing coal for blending with domestic coal. With increased availability of domestic coal, the import of coal for blending with domestic coal has reduced from 48.5 Million Tonne (MT) during 2014-15 to 17 MT during 2017-18.

(e) : Coal is transported to the power plants mainly through Indian Railways. Some power plants, located near to the coal mine, also take coal through other means like Merry-Go-Round (MGR), Conveyer Belt, etc. The Railways construct new railway lines and upgrade their existing lines to transport adequate coal from time to time as per the requirement.

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