

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5055
TO BE ANSWERED ON 24.07.2019**

Coal Transport by Road and Rail

5055. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:

DR. HEENA GAVIT:

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE:

SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJI KUNDARIYA:

SHRI SUNIL DATTATRAY TATKARE:

DR. AMOL RAMSING KOLHE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the road as well as the rail mode of coal transport are not performing upto the expectations which is leading to inadequate coal stock at power plants that are located at far distances from mines;
- (b) whether road transportation of coal faces significant issues including environmental concerns and resistance from local population;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken by the Government to tackle the problem and to ensure efficient transportation of coal;
- (d) whether it is also true that the coal companies should focus on increased use of conveyor belts of overhead ropeways; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES

(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a): As per Central Electricity Authority (CEA), total domestic coal receipt to the power plants in 2018-19 has been 582.1 Million Tonne (MT) registering a growth of 8.1% over the receipt of 538.6 MT in 2017-18. Dispatch of coal to long distance power plants is mainly catered through rail mode. As on 17.07.2019, the coal stock at power plants end is 25.59 MT which is equivalent to 15 days consumption requirement.

(b) & (c): There have been sporadic instances of resistance from local population for movement of coal through road mode due to various issues including environmental concerns. Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change *vide* notification dated 02.01.2014 has specified norms for use of coal with ash content not exceeding 34% for certain distances

(beyond 500 km with effect from 05.06.2016) and sensitive locations such as urban area, ecologically sensitive area or critically polluted industrial area irrespective of its distances from pithead. In addition to the above, it is mandatory to obtain consent under Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 from the concerned State Pollution Board.

(d) & (e): Coal companies have planned to minimize movement of coal through road mode in a phased manner and substitute the same by conveyor belts, ropeways etc. Ministry of Power in a meeting on 25.01.2018 has directed for use of captive mode of transport for coal movement like elevated closed belt conveyors for Power plants within 20 kilometers from pithead, Merry-Go-Round (MGR) for plants located within 40 Kms from pithead and the option of MGR based on financial viability for power plants upto 100 Kms.
