

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF POWER
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3181
ANSWERED ON 04.08.2022**

POWER CRISIS DUE TO LOW COAL STOCK

3181. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:

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

- (a) whether any efforts are being made to ensure that coal based power plants accumulated coal in anticipation of the monsoon season;**
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (c) whether the low pre-monsoon coal stock could lead to another power crisis in the months of July-August, 2022 and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the reaction of the Government on the impact of inadequate logistics on the current coal crisis especially the insufficient number of railway carriages to transport coal?**

A N S W E R

THE MINISTER OF POWER AND NEW & RENEWABLE ENERGY

(SHRI R.K. SINGH)

(a) & (b) : The Government has taken the following steps to ensure adequate coal stock during the Monsoon season:

- I. The Government on 06.12.2021 has issued the revised coal stocking norms, which mandates the power plants to maintain coal stock at a daily requirement of 85% PLF for 12 to 17 days in case of pithead plants and 20 to 26 days in case of non-pithead plants, with seasonal variation based on despatch/consumption pattern during the year. During the month of June, the non-pithead plants are to maintain 26 days of coal stock and pithead plants are to maintain 17 days of coal stock at a requirement of 85% PLF.**
- II. An Inter-Ministerial Sub Group comprising of representatives from Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Railways, Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) meet regularly to take various operational decisions to enhance supply of coal to thermal power plants as well as for meeting any contingent situations relating to Power Sector including to alleviate critical coal stock position in power plants.**
- III. As per the decision taken in the meeting held under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary on Augmentation of coal supply and power generation capacity, a Secretary level Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) has been set up to ensure that the medium and long term requirements of coal are met. The IMC comprises of Chairman, Railway Board, Secretary, Ministry of Coal, Secretary, Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change, as Members and Secretary, Ministry of Power as Convenor. Further, CEA provides technical support to the IMC.**

IV. CIL has allocated about 16 MT coal on Road cum Rail (RCR) mode to TPPs.

V. Ministry of Railways has issued an order to give preference to Power Sector for loading of coal from Good Shed Siding (GSS) and Private Washery.

(c) : The coal stock available with the thermal power plants monitored on a daily basis by CEA was about 29.5 MT, as on 27.07.2022, which was about 52% of the normative coal stock required to be maintained by the TPPs. The stock available as on 27.07.2022 is sufficient to run these power plants for an average of 11 days at 85% PLF.

(d) : Considering the importance of coal transportation, the Indian Railways has increased the deployment of rakes for coal loading to power houses. During, the first quarter of the current financial year (April-June 2022), the coal loading to power sector during the period has been 434 rakes per day which is 32% more than the corresponding period of 2021-22. In July 2022 (upto 13th), coal loading to power sector has been 425 rakes per day which is 41% more than the corresponding period in July 2021.
