

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 352  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 27.11.2024**

**Fall of Coal Production**

**352 Shri Shrirang Appa Chandu Barne:  
Shri Arvind Ganpat Sawant:  
Smt. Bharti Pardhi:**

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

- (a) whether the coal production fell short of its production target for the fiscal 2023-2024;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to reduce the import of the dry fuel to Zero by 2026;
- (d) if so, the details and the facts thereof and the steps taken or proposed to be taken to achieve the target;
- (e) whether contractual workers play a significant role in Coal India's output; and
- (f) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the contract workers/labourers?

**ANSWER  
MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES  
(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

**(a):** All India coal production in Financial Year 2023-24 was 997.826 Million Tonnes (MT) against a target of 1012.14 MT.

**(b):** Major constraints faced by the coal companies for achievements of targets are as under:

- i. Issues related to land acquisition and Rehabilitation & Resettlement (R & R).
- ii. Delay in Forestry and Environmental Clearances.
- iii. Evacuation & logistics constraints.
- iv. Law & Order issues.
- v. Shortage of stowing material and adverse geo-mining conditions in some underground mines.

**(c) & (d):** The focus of the efforts made by the Government is on increasing the domestic production of coal and to eliminate non-essential import of coal in the country. Most of the requirement of coal in the country is met through indigenous production and supply. As per the current import policy, coal is kept under Open General License (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal from the source of their choice as per their contractual prices on payment of applicable duty.

Measures taken by the Government to substitute coal imports are as under:

- i. The Annual Contracted Quantity (ACQ) has been increased upto 100% of the normative requirement, in the cases where the ACQ was either reduced to 90% of normative requirement (non-coastal) or where the ACQ was reduced to 70% of normative requirement (coastal power plants). Increase in the ACQ would result in more domestic coal supplies, thereby, reducing the import dependency.
- ii. Under the provisions of Para B (viii) (a) of SHAKTI Policy, coal linkage is provided for short term for sale of power generated through that linkage through any product in Power Exchanges or in short term through a transparent bidding process through DEEP

- portal. In addition, with the amendment to the Non-Regulated Sector (NRS) linkage auction policy introduced in 2020, the tenure of coking coal linkages in the NRS linkage auction has been revised for a period upto 30 years. The coal offered for short term to the Power Plants under the amended provisions of SHAKTI Policy as well as increase in the tenure of the coking coal linkages in the NRS linkage auction for a period upto 30 years is expected to have a positive impact towards coal imports substitution.
- iii. Government has decided in 2022 that the coal to meet the full Power Purchase Requirement (PPA) requirement of all the existing linkage holders of Power Sector shall be made available by the coal companies irrespective of the trigger level and ACQ levels. This decision of the Government of meeting the full PPA requirement of the linkage holders of the Power Sector shall reduce the dependence on the imports.
  - iv. An Inter - Ministerial Committee (IMC) was constituted in the Ministry of Coal on 29.05.2020 for the purpose of coal import substitution. The Representatives from Ministry of Power, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Shipping, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Steel, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Department for Promotion of Industry & Internal Trade (DPIIT), Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Coal Companies and Ports are members of this IMC. 11 meetings of the IMC have been held so far. On the directions of the IMC, an Import Data System has been developed by Ministry of Coal to enable the Ministry to track the imports of coal. Efforts are being made on a continuous basis to ensure more domestic supplies of coal. Thus, the entire substitutable imported coal should be met by the country and no import other than the very essential should happen. A Strategy Paper on Coal Import Substitution has been released.
  - v. A new sub-sector 'Steel using Coking coal through WDO route' has been created in March, 2024 under the NRS linkage auctions which shall lead to increase in the domestic coking coal consumption and shall increase the availability of washed coking coal in the country, thereby, reducing coking coal imports.
  - vi. Coking Coal Mission has been launched to enhance coking coal supply to the Steel Sector to reduce imports of coking coal. Initiatives have been taken to enhance coking coal production.

**(e):** Yes Sir. The contractual workers play a significant role in the output of Coal India Limited

**(f):** Coal India Limited / its subsidiaries have taken the following steps to safeguard the interest of the contract workers:

- i. Contractors' Workers engaged in Mining Activities are provided wages as per recommendations of the bipartite High Power/Joint Committee.
- ii. Contractors' Workers engaged in Non-Mining Activities are provided wages as prescribed by the appropriate Government.
- iii. Contractors' Workers covered under the provisions of Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 are paid Bonus as per applicability.
- iv. Contractors' workers engaged in mining activities are entitled for payment of Performance Incentive, as applicable
- v. Contractors' Workers deployed in establishments of Coal India Limited / its Subsidiaries are provided medical facility as available in hospitals/dispensaries of Subsidiaries of Coal India Limited, free of cost.
- vi. An amount of ₹ 15 lakh is paid to the next of kin of Contractor Worker in case of fatal mine accident.
- vii. All the statutory payments in respect of Contractors' Workers, are made by the contractor, as per the relevant Act/ Rules, as applicable.
- viii. All eligible contractors' workers are covered under EPF/CMPPF.
- ix. Facility of drinking water, rest-shelter, canteen, washrooms, Initial/Periodic medical examination, ensuring availability of safety equipment is provided to the Contractors' Workers.

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