

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Offtake of coal from Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) during the first quarter of 1998-99 (April-June, 1998) as compared to the same period last year are given below:—

	(In million tonnes) Data Provisional
April-June, 98	62.39
April-June, 97	70.43

The offtake of coal during first quarter of 1998-99 was low as compared to the last year on account of lower demand from the power and cement sectors. Because of all time high stock at the power houses end, most of the power houses resorted to restriction/curtailment in supplies resulting in reduced offtake. The cement plants particularly those located in coastal region are switching over from indigenous coal to the imported coal thereby affecting coal despatches to cement industry.

(c) to (e) In view of the comfortable stocks, various steps have been taken to improve despatches of coal which include:

- (i) With a view to make coal freely available to Small Scale Industries and other consumers the Liberalised Sale Scheme has been made more attractive.
- (ii) State-wise and Coal company-wise ceiling limits for supply of coal to the brick kilns and the seasonal industries have been removed; and
- (iii) A new Scheme called "Trade Channel Network" is being introduced in order to improve coal despatches. Under this Scheme the traders will be appointed (on the basis of tenders) at selected locations in the country. The supplying coal companies will enter into Fuel Supply Agreement with the selected traders for a period of five years.

Import of Coal by Cement Plants

811. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal based generation was even less than what was envisaged in the Annual Plan;

(b) whether Cement Plants are importing coal;

(c) if so, the quantity imported by Cement Plants during 1997-98; and

(d) the steps the Government have contemplated to uplift the low off-take of coal by the Power and Cement Sectors for the growth of the Coal industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Coal based generation target and actual generation during the period April, 98 to January, 99 is given below:

	(Data provisional) (Figures in Billion Units)
Target	240.99
Actual	234.22
Percentage Achievement	97.20%

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As per the information furnished by Cement Manufacturers Association, the cement industries imported about 3.5 million tonnes of coal during the year 1997-98.

(d) Steps taken to increase offtake of coal by Power and Cement Plants include:

- (i) Entering into Fuel Supply Agreement with Power houses for ensuring offtake of contracted quantity and quality of coal;
- (ii) Urging the power houses to build up stocks as per the norms; and
- (iii) Persuading Cement Plants to use more indigenous coal by offering consumer options of contract agreement *inter-alia* covering long term commitments for supply of coal.

Abhyudaya Programme of KVIC

812. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL:
SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the various activities launched in the Khadi and Village Industries sector under the Abhyudaya Programme in 1998-99;