

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2597  
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2000  
PROBLEMS OF COAL USE  
RAMSHETH THAKUR

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

- (a) whether the attention of the government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Focus on problems of coal use appearing in the Hindustan Times dated the 11th July, 2000;
- (b) if so, whether the use of coal in different sectors has been declined after the categorisation of coal as dirtiest fossil fuel;
- (c) if so, the C.I.L. and its subsidiaries are facing lot of problems and losses;
- (d) whether Central Pollution Control Board has suggested some options for the better use of coal;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the reactions of the Government thereto?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM)

(a) to (c) :Yes Sir. During the last three years the offtake of coal from CIL sources were as under:

Year	in million tonnes Offtake (Raw Coal)
1997-98	260.5
1998-99	252.2
1999-2000	263.16 (Prov.)

It may be seen that there was no steady decline in offtake of coal. Therefore, problem on account of decline in coal usage does not arise.

(d) to (f): Ministry of Environment and Forest has notified that from 1.6.2001 onwards all the coal fired thermal power stations located beyond 1000 Km. from pithead and located in urban area or sensitive area or critically polluted area irrespective of their distance from pithead shall use raw or blended or beneficiated coal with ash content not exceeding 34% on an annual average basis.

Government of India had constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Member(Thermal), CEA to look into the ways and means of meeting the stipulation contained in the notification of by MOEF and the committee had submitted its report in this regard. Further, a Joint Apex Committee under the Chairmanship of Member (Thermal), CEAs has been constituted by the Government to implement/monitor the stipulation contained in the notification of by MOEF.