

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:280
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
IMPORT OF COAL .
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) The quantity and value of coal imported during the last three years;
- (b) Whether the coal reserve and the expected production in the country during the current year is sufficient to meet the projected demand;
- (c) If so, the details thereof;
- (d) Whether the Government proposes to import coal despite the availability of sufficient quantity of coal in the country;
- (e) If so, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) The steps taken by the Government to boost the production of coal in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

- (a) The quantity and value of coal imported during the last three years are given below:-

(Million Tonnes/Million Rs.)

Year	Imported Coal	Value
2003-04	21.683	50087
2004-05	28.950	102660
2005-06 (Estimated)	36.869	143262

(b)&(c): As per Annual Plan,2006-07, the estimated raw coal demand during current year would be 474.18 Million tonnes. This is planned to be met from domestic supply of 432.39 Million tonnes and gap of 41.79 Million tonnes will have to be met by imports of 24.19 Mt of coking coal for steel sector and 17.60 Mt of non-coking coal for power, cement and others sectors.

(d)&(e): Government do not import coal. Since coal is under Open General Licence (OGL), consumers are free to import coal based on their requirement. Import of coal is done due to limited indigenous availability of low ash coking and non-coking coal, environmental consideration necessitating use of imported coal and consideration of location specific landed cost.

(f): Coal India Limited has taken the following steps to increase indigenous production :-

- i)100 mining projects are envisaged to be undertaken during Xth Plan.
- ii) improvement in equipment utilization.
- iii) timely implementation of projects.
- iv) mechanization/modernization of existing mines.
- v) all new mines being planned with mechanization
- vi) increasing productivity in both underground and open cast mines.
- vii) emergency coal production has been planned for increasing production in existing mines/projects.

Further, Government has allotted 97 coal blocks to different consumers for captive use.