

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6847

ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005

IMPORT OF COAL

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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether coking and non-coking coal is being imported in huge quantities though there is vast scope of their production in the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the quantity of import for the last three years, country-wise and type-wise:
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to further improve the production of coking and non-coking coal in the country;
- (e) whether the quality of imported coals superior as compared to the domestic coal; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO):

- (a) and (b) On account of limited reserves of coking coal in India, coking coal is being imported by Steel and allied industries, to meet the gap in demand and supply. Likewise, some quantity of non-coking coal is also being imported by consumers as per their need and cost consideration.
- (c) A statement showing the details of imports during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto Dec. 2004), country-wise and type-wise, is enclosed.
- (d) Coal India Limited has taken up the following steps to reduce the gap between demand and indigenous supply and increase the productivity of coal:
 - (i) 99 projects have been considered to be taken up during Tenth Plan
 - (ii) Allotment of coal blocks to end users for captive mining
 - (iii) Improvement in equipment utilization
 - (iv) Mechanization/modernisation of existing mines
 - (v) Timely implementation of projects
- (e) and (f) The Indian coal is traditionally high ash coal and low calorific value, because of mixing of the extraneous material in its geological formation itself and the imported coal generally has low coal ash content and high calorific value properties.