

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4699

ANSWERED ON:25.04.2008

SHORTAGE OF COAL FOR POWER PLANTS

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada; Nikhil Kumar Shri ; Owaisi Shri Asaduddin; Patle Shri Shishupal Natthu; Pingle Shri Devidas Anandrao; Vallabbhaneni Shri Balashowry; Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the leading Public sector power generation companies as well as captive power plants are lying underutilized due to shortage of Coal and natural gas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the contracted quantity of coal and gas is not being fully supplied leading to lower operational capacity of the power plants;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (e) the total loss suffered in power generation capacity due to shortage of Coal and gas; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) to (e) : The coal supply position to Thermal Power Stations (TPSs) in the country is not comfortable. As on 22nd April, 2008, out of total 77 coal based thermal power stations, 23 power stations are critical having a coal stock of less than 7 days. The All India coal stock is also low at 10.122 Million Tonne (MT) against a normative requirement of 22 MT.

During 2007-08, the actual Plant Load Factor (PLF) of coal based TPSs in the country was 78.91% against a target of 77.78%. However, according to NTPC, during 2007-08 there was loss in PLF of 4 of their power stations, namely Farakka, Kahalgaon, Talcher (Kaniha) and Vindhyachal to the tune of 4.66%, 0.65%, 0.08% and 0.33% respectively due to shortage of coal.

According to the information received from Coal India Limited, allocation of coal to Captive Power Plants (CPPs) without Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) for Quarter-I (April to June, 2008) is

1.104 Million Tonne Per Month (MTPM) against the allocation of 1.099 MTPM for Quarter-II (2007-08); marginal increase is on account of allocation to new plants commissioned. The allocation of coal to CPPs with FSA for the Quarter-I (April to June, 2008) is 2.058 MTPM against the allocation of

2.110 MTPM for Quarter-IV (2007-08); marginal reduction being due to the variation in quarterly contracted quantity for some of the CPPs. The overall allocation of coal to CPPs has been 3.162 MTPM during Quarter-I (April to June, 2008) against the allocation of 3.209 MTPM during Quarter-IV (2007-08).

The production and supply of gas in the country is also not keeping pace with the growing demand for gas in the country, including for that for power sector. The average gas supply during 2007-08 (April-February 2008) has been 37.06 Million Metric Standard Cubic Meter Per Day (MMSCMD), against the requirement of 65.67 MMSCMD to operate the stations at 90% PLF, resulting in generation loss of about 29 Billion Units.

(f) : Following steps have been taken by the Government to meet the shortages of gas and coal for power stations :

(i) Rigorous monitoring of supply of coal to thermal power stations for optimizing coal supply to the power stations from various sources.

(ii) Ministry of Coal is being insisted upon to enhance the production of coal in the country.

(iii) Import of coal to meet the shortfall in domestic availability of coal.

(iv) Arranging spot Regasified Liquefied Natural Gas (RLNG).

(v) New coal blocks are being allocated by the Ministry of Coal to power producers/utilities for captive mining to meet requirement of their power plants.