

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1758

ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008

SHORTAGE OF COAL

Angadi Shri Suresh Chanabasappa; Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether coal based power projects are facing acute shortage of black diamond; b} if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether there is any proposal for import of 20 million metric tonnes of coal;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): No, Sir. There is no acute shortage of coal for Power Utilities in India. As against the Annual Action Plan (AAP) target of supply of 249.97 million tonnes of coal to power utilities by Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) during April, 2007 to January, 2008 the actual supply during this period was 255.71 million tonnes (Provisional) showing materialization of about 102%. However, due to lesser materialization as against quarterly planned movement of coal on account of loading/unloading and movement constraints, short-term production constraints in the linked source etc., there has been depletion of stocks at power plants. In anticipation of this, it was decided by the Government that Ministry of Power would draw up a plan to import 20 million tonnes of coal by power utilities in 2007-08 to improve availability of coal and build up coal stocks at power house end. Moreover, due to various factors like increase in Plant Load Factor (PLF) and increase in specific coal consumption, there has been increase in consumption of coal by power plants. Further, keeping in view the expected power generation target and projected coal production and also with a view to build up coal stocks at the power plants end, Ministry of Power has been advised to retain the current years target of 20 million tonnes for import during 2008-09 also by power utilities.