

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4036
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004
DECLINE IN PRODUCTION OF COKING COAL
Nayak Shri Ananta;Saroj Shri Daroga Prasad

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is sharp decline in the coking coal and low ash non coking coal reserves in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and reasons therefor;
- (c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government during the last three years to overcome this shortage/decline;
- (d) if so, whether the Government has a proposal to import these grades of coal; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b): Extractable reserves of superior quality coking coal and non-coking coal have been depleting over the years, reasons for which are as under:

- Upper coal seams of Jharia coalfield having the major reserve of coking coal have been exhausted to a great extent since the mines here are very old.
- The coal field is having fire over huge area.
- Waterlogged overlying underground workings and caved goaves restrict working.
- Lower coal seams are of poor quality.

(c) To augment coking coal production, Coal India Limited (CIL) have planned to take up three new coking coal projects, 2 in X Plan viz. Bermo Opencast (OC)(0.5 Mty) and Topa OC (1.20 Mty) and 1 in Xth Plan namely Kedla OC (2.0 Mty) in Central Coal fields Limited (CCL).

Additionally dismantling of Dhanbad-patherdih Railway line at Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) will unlock about 10 million tones of metallurgical coking coal which will be extracted during Xth Plan period.

(d) & (e) As per the import policy of the Government of India, all types of coal can be imported under Open General License by paying applicable import duty. Imports are made by Coal users also directly.

Details of coal imports for the last three years as reported in provisional coal statistics: 2003-04 published by Coal Controller's Organization, is under:

Year-wise details of coal import (in Million tones)

Year	Coking Coal	Non-Coking Coal & coke	Total Coal	Total Coal Coke
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2001-02	11.107	9.441	20.548	2.284	22.832
2002-03	12.947	10.313	23.260	2.245	25.505
2003-04 (provl)	12.000	9.500	21.500	2.200	23.700