

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2707
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2009
SHORTAGE OF COAL IN NTPC POWER PLANTS
Jeyadural Shri S. R.

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of National Thermal Power Corporation power plants which have been shut down due to the shortage of coal during the last three years and the current year, State-wise;
- (b) the reasons for the shortage of coal for these plants;
- (c) whether several plants of NTPC in the country at present are running/operating at around half per cent of the plant load factors;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI)

- (a): According to NTPC, none of the power plants as a whole of NTPC were under complete shut down due to coal shortage during last three years and current year. However, few of the units in a few of their plants have been reported to be under shut down temporarily due to coal shortage. The details of these units are enclosed at Annex.
- (b): Major reasons for shortage of coal for these units are as under:
 - (i) Farakka and Kahalgaon are pit-head power stations. Coal shortage at these thermal power stations has been largely due to non-development of linked mines viz. Rajmahal expansion, Chupervita and Hurra `C` of Eastern Coalfields Ltd.
 - (ii) Talcher Super Thermal Power Station is a pit-head power station. Coal shortage at this power station has been largely due to non-development of linked mines Kaniha and Bhubaneshwari of Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.
- (c) & (d): During the current financial year (April to October, 2009) none of the NTPC plants operated below 50% Plant Load Factor (PLF).
- (e): Government has taken following steps to augment the coal supply for NTPC power stations:
 - (i) In view of limited availability of indigenous coal, NTPC was advised to import 12.5 Million Tonnes coal for the year 2009-10. NTPC has imported 3.8 Million Tonnes coal upto 30th November 2009.
 - (ii) NTPC has tied up 2 Million Tonnes of high Calorific Value Raniganj coal for Farakka and Kahalgaon to meet the additional requirement.
 - (iii) NTPC was advised to sign an MOU with Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) for supply of coal from SCCL to Farakka and Kahalgaon.