

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4101  
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2009  
INCLUSION OF COAL UNDER ECA  
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether coal has been excluded under the Essential Commodities Act (ECA);
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has received any request to include coal under the Essential Commodities Act in view of its importance as a fuel;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K. V. THOMAS)

(a) & (b): Coal was earlier classified as an essential commodity under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. With the enactment of the Essential Commodities (Amendment) Act, 2006, coal stands omitted from the list of essential commodities. The said Amendment Act came into force with effect from 12.02.2007. In order to regulate colliery operations, coal transportation etc., the Colliery Control Rules, 2004 have been framed under the Mines & Mineral (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 and were notified in the Gazette of India on 25.08.2004.

(c): No, Madam.

(d) & (e): Does not arise.