

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:611

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010

SUPPLY OF SUB-STANDARD COAL

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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the sub-standard quality of coal is being supplied to the thermal power plants in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government have received complaints from the various State Governments including Gujarat in this regard;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to ensure supply of standard quality of coal to power stations? ANSWER

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) AND MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) to (c): The Government Coal Companies supply coal to the power plants in the country as per the terms and conditions of Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) agreed between the concerned coal companies and the consumers. The Fuel Supply Agreement provides for joint sampling facility, wherever the annual coal requirement is more than 4 lakh tonnes. Even though the coal companies are trying to maintain the assured quality, complaints are being received from time to time through Central Electricity Authority and also from the power utilities informing the details of oversized coal, lumpy coal, presence of stones, lumpy coal with large stones etc. Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited has also taken up coal quality issues with South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) from time to time. The achievement of Coal India Limited coal companies in grade conformity in respect of sampling and analysis was to the tune of 92.30% in respect of supplies to power sector during 2009-10. Further, consumers, who are covered under joint sampling arrangement, are required to pay as per the analysed grade of coal.

(d): The coal companies have initiated, inter-alia, the following steps to improve the quality of coal :

- (i) Selective mining of bands of > 1 meter thickness
- (ii) Appropriate positioning of Over Burden (OB) and coal benches to avoid contamination.
- (iii) Scrapping / cleaning of coal benches before blasting
- (iv) Installation of metal detectors / magnetic separators over running conveyors before coal loading
- (v) All the major projects having high capacity coal handling plants to dispatch sized and uniform quality of coal to suit the requirement of the consumers
- (vi) Establishment of well equipped laboratories at all the projects for regular quality assessment.
- (vii) Arrangement for joint sampling with consumers, based on which consumers are provided with the facility of adjustment of payment against coal value.
- (viii) Arrange awareness programmes / imparting training to the personnel involved in production of coal regarding importance of coal quality and need to improve and maintain the same during mining operations.
- (ix) Shale picking, if any, at mine face stocks, sidings and from the wagons.
- (x) Beneficiation of non-coking coal in washeries have been planned for a total throughout capacity of about 105.6 MTY on "Build Operate & Maintain (BOM)" basis in addition to the existing through out capacity of 17.2 MTY of non-coking coal.