

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2158
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2010
SHORTAGE OF COAL
Kumar Shri P.

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of thermal power plants in the country are facing acute shortage of coal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has received any representations from the respective States for the supply of additional coal to these thermal power plants;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Government to provide adequate coal supply to these coal deficient power plants to meet their power generation target?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) : As on 31st July 2010, out of 81 thermal power stations monitored by Central Electricity Authority on daily basis, 24 thermal power stations were 'Critical' with a coal stock of less than 7 days and out of these, 14 thermal power stations were 'Supercritical' with a coal stock less than 4 days. Station- wise/State-wise details in this regard are given at Annex.

(c) to (e) : In view of continuing coal shortage in the country, requests for enhancement in the Annual Contracted Quantity (ACQ) of coal for power stations have been received from time to time from states, like, Punjab, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, etc. The availability of domestic coal is limited, it would be difficult to increase the ACQ of existing power stations. To make up for coal shortages, Power Utilities are being advised to import coal commensurate with their requirement and availability from domestic sources.

Other measures taken / being taken by the Government to improve coal supply to power stations include:

Rigorous monitoring of coal supply to thermal power stations by the Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal and Central Electricity Authority;

Review of coal production and supply to thermal power stations at the level of Cabinet Secretariat, the Planning Commission; and

Allotment of new coal blocks by Ministry of Coal to Power Utilities for captive mining.