

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4629
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010
SUPPLY OF COAL TO POWER PLANTS
Gandhi Shri Feroze Varun

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to meet the coal requirements of the power sector in the country, barring coastal regions where import is an option, through indigenous coal and create alternatives to ensure its availability;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has taken steps/proposes to take steps to ensure rapid capacity addition at the grassroots to achieve service standards and affordability and encourage private participation for the same;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) &(b): Central Electricity Authority (CEA)/ Ministry of Power has estimated that the indigenous coal requirement during 2010-11, for the power utilities, other than imported coal based power plants, will be 434 million tonnes, whereas the indigenous coal availability has been estimated at 388 million tonnes. With a view to bridge the gap between demand and indigenous estimated supply, Ministry of Power has advised the power utilities to import 35 million tonnes of coal during 2010-11.

(c) to (e): Keeping in view the increased demand for coal in the country, the following steps have been taken/are being taken to increase production of coal for meeting the indigenous demand:-

- (i) Coal India Limited has been asked to increase production from existing mines and expedite production from new projects.
- (ii) 208 coal blocks have been allotted to different consumers including private sector.
- (iii) exploration for new Coal blocks has been expedited.
- (iv) Procedure for project approvals has been streamlined.
- (v) 142 mining projects are to be taken up during XI Plan for achieving ultimate additional production capacity of 380.22 MTs with estimated capital investment of about 36,466 Crores. Out of these 142 projects, 76 projects are likely to contribute 161.43 million tonnes by the terminal year of XI plan i.e. 2011-12.
- (vi) mechanization/modernization of existing mines.
- (vii) Improvement in equipment utilisation.
- (viii) Increasing productivity in underground and opencast mines
- (ix) timely implementation of projects
- (x) exploration capacity of CMPDIL being increased from existing 2 Lakh meters per annum to 4 Lakh meters per annum of drilling by end of 11th Plan (2011-12).
- (xi) 7 high capacity underground mines have been conceived
- (xii) 18 abandoned mines are being revived