

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:492
ANSWERED ON:07.08.2009
SHORTAGE OF COAL IN NTPC POWER PLANTS
Das Gupta Shri Gurudas;Singh Shri Radha Mohan

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the coal stocks of several power plants of the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) have been dwindling continuously for the last few months affecting the power generation;
- (b) if so, the details of the requirement of coal and its supply to these power plants during the year 2008-2009 and the current year and the utilised power generation capacity during the said period;
- (c) the reasons for the shortage of coal supply; and
- (d) the steps taken or being taken to improve the supply of coal to these power plants?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 492 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 07.08.2009 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF COAL IN NTPC POWER PLANTS.

(a) : Yes, Madam. Coal stock at some of the NTPC's power stations, namely Farakka, Kahalgaon, Talcher (Kaniha) and Sipat has gone down.

(b) : The details of coal requirement and supply as well as capacity utilization (Plant Load Factor) of Farakka, Kahalgaon, Talcher (Kaniha) and Sipat during the year 2008-09 & 2009-10 (upto June, 2009) are given in Annex.

(c) : Main reason for shortage of coal is inadequate availability of indigenous coal. For the year 2009-10, against the total requirement of 404 Million Tonne (MT), availability of coal from Coal India Limited (CIL) was indicated as 313 MT. Taking into account 30 MT from Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) and 20 MT from Captive mines, total indigenous coal availability was worked out to 363 MT, leaving a gap of 41 MT. In order to bridge the gap between demand and indigenous supply of coal for the current year 2009-10, power utilities have been advised to import 28.7 MT coal.

(d) : Following steps are being taken to augment coal supply for NTPC stations:

Import of coal to bridge the gap between demand and indigenous supply of coal. NTPC have already imported approximately 3.6 MT coal upto 30th June 2009 against the annual target of 12.5 MT for the year 2009-10.

The monitoring of coal supply to thermal power stations by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Ministry of Power as well as an Inter-Ministerial Committee comprising representatives from Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Power and CEA to optimize coal supply to the plants having stock upto 7 days.

Review of the coal production and supply to thermal power stations by the Infrastructure Constraints Review Committee, headed by Secretary (Co-ordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat.

Review of the status of supply of fuel to power stations in the country by the Fuel Infrastructure Committee, under the chairmanship of Member (Power), Planning Commission.

NTPC has entered into captive coal mining and is in the process of developing six coal blocks allocated to it for ensuring long term fuel security. NTPC is also exploring the possibility of acquiring stakes in the coal mines from abroad for sourcing coal supply for its power plants.

International Coal Venture Pvt. Ltd. (ICVL), a joint venture company amongst NTPC, RINL, SAIL, NMDC and CIL has been formed for securing metallurgical and thermal coal assets from overseas.

