

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3665

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010

SUPPLY OF COAL

Bavalia Shri Kuvarjibhai Mohanbhai;Bundela Shri Jeetendra Singh;Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Joshi Dr. Murli Manohar;Roy Shri Arjun;Shantha J.;Sharma Shri Jagdish;Vardhan Shri Harsh;Yadav Shri Dinesh Chandra

**Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the power plants in the country are facing acute shortage of coal;
- (b) if so, the current demand and supply of coal in respect of each State/UT during the last six months;
- (c) whether despite appointment of Third Umpire and slew of other measures, the power utilities continue to receive sub-standard/compromised quality of coal;
- (d) if so, whether some of the States have complained to the Union Government regarding supply of inferior/low quality coal to them;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to supply adequate quantity of quality coal to the States ?

**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) & (b): The coal stocks with power stations had increased from the level of 9.289 million tonnes as on 31st October, 2009 to 12.046 million tonnes as on 31st October, 2010.

During the process of formulation of the Annual Plan, Ministry of Coal/ Piannir 4 Commission assess the overall coal demand of the country, sector-wise and the company-wise coal supply plan is formulated by the Ministry of Coal for various sectors including Power Utilities. The coal supply plan is not made State-wise. Therefore, state-wise demand is not available. During April-September, 2010, the Government coal companies namely Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited supplied 156.85 million tonnes as against the target of 166.96 million tonnes, achieving about 94% of the target.

(c) to (e): Coal is supplied to the consumers, including power utilities, by coal companies as per the terms of the Fuel Supply Agreement. Those consumers who are having annual requirement of 4 lakh tonnes per annum and above are extended the facility of joint sampling at the loading point and payment is as per analysed grade. As per joint sampling results, 93% of supplies from Coal India Limited sources conformed to the declared grade. Complaints are received time to time through Central Electricity Authority and also from the power utilities located in various states informing the details of oversized coal, lumpy coal, presence of stones, lumpy coal with large stones etc.

(f): Indian coal, by virtue of its drift origin, has high 'ash content'. Improvement of quality of coal is a continuous process. The following steps have been taken by coal companies to improve the quality of coal being supplied to consumers including the power utilities:

- (i) selective mining of bands of > 1 meter thickness
- (ii) appropriate positioning of Over Burden (OB) and coal benches to avoid contamination
- (iii) Installation of metal detectors / magnetic separators over running conveyors before coal loading
- (iv) scrapping/cleaning of coal benches before blasting
- (v) establishment of well equipped laboratories at all the projects for regular quality assessment
- (vi) arrangement for joint sampling with consumers wherein consumers are provided with the facility of adjustment of payment against coal value
- (vii) shale picking, if any, at mine face, stocks, sidings and from the wagons
- (viii) beneficiation of non-coking coal in washeries have been planned for improving the quality.

(ix) arranging awareness programme/imparting training to the personnel involved in production of coal