

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:61
ANSWERED ON:25.11.2011
SHORTAGE OF COAL FOR POWER PLANTS
Bhoi Shri Sanjay;Sharma Shri Jagdish

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the stocks required, including the period thereof and the actual supply position of coal in various power Public Sector Unit plants during the last three years and the current year, plant-wise and State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the quantum of power generation in various thermal power plants including those of the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) fell during April to October, 2011 due to shortage of coal;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons for short supply of coal by the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries;
- (d) the number of plants where work was suspended or nearly suspended due to non-availability of coal during the last three years and the current year, plant-wise; and
- (e) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure uninterrupted supply of coal to these power plants?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 61 TO BE ANSWERED IN THE LOK SABHA ON 25.11.2011 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF COAL FOR POWER PLANTS.

(a): Coal stock requirement of power stations depends upon its distance from coal mines. The coal stocking norms for power stations are given below:

Location	Stocking Norm (in days)
----------	----------------------------

Pit-head stations	15
Upto 500 km from coal mine	20
501 to 1000 km from coal mine	25
Beyond 1000 km from coal mine	30

Plant-wise/State-wise details of coal stock requirement for various public sector power stations is enclosed at Annex-A.

Plant-wise/State-wise details of actual coal supply to thermal power stations of power utilities in public sector during the last three years i.e. 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and the current financial year (upto October, 2011) are enclosed at Annex-B1, B2, B3 and B4 respectively.

(b) & (c): During the period April to October, 2011, coal based generation registered a growth of approximately 7.7% over the actual generation during April to October, 2010. However, Power Utilities including NTPC have reported a generation loss of about 5.3 Billion Unit due to shortage of coal.

Main reasons for short supply of coal by the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited during the current year are:

- (i) Less transportation of coal from coal mines to railway sidings.
- (ii) Inadequate crushing capacity at the coal mines.
- (iii) Law and order problems in the Central Coalfields Limited and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.
- (iv) Excessive rains of the coal fields of Northern Coalfields Limited, Central Coalfields Limited and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited.

(d): No operating Thermal Power Station reported shutdown due to non-availability of coal during last three years and the current year. However, a generation loss of 10.92 Billion Unit, 14.49 Billion Unit, 8.38 Billion Unit and 5.32 Billion Unit was reported by the Power Utilities during 2008- 09, 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12 (upto October, 2011) due to inadequate availability of coal. Plant-wise details of generation loss are given at Annex-C.

(e): Following steps have been taken by the Government to augment supply of coal to thermal power stations:

(i) Ministry of Coal/ Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is being insisted upon to enhance production of domestic coal in the country.

(ii) Power Utilities are being advised to import coal to bridge the shortfall between requirement of coal and its availability from the domestic sources.

(iii) The coal supply position is reviewed at various levels in Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Power and Cabinet Secretariat with participation from the concerned Ministries, CEA, Coal India Limited and NTPC.