

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2583
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2011
SHORTAGE OF COAL
Bhagora Shri Tarachand

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether due to the rising cost of coal and decline in domestic production of coal, the approved target of 20000 MW electricity generation in the Twelfth Plan may not be fulfilled;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the short supply of coal is likely to trigger adverse implications for power utilities including Ultra Mega Power Plants and a bleak future for power projects;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL)

(a) & (b) : Working Group on power has been constituted by the Planning Commission to formulate the 12th Five Year Plan for the Power Sector. The Working Group is in the process of finalizing its report which will, inter-alia, include capacity addition programme and availability of coal during the 12th Five Year Plan.

(c) to (e) : In view of the short supply of coal from domestic sources vis-à-vis requirement for the plants designed to operate on domestic coal is being imported subject to limitation in its blending due to boiler design constraints. Quantum of coal import is assessed depending on the anticipated requirement for a year and likely availability from domestic sources. For 2011-12, power utilities have been given a target of importing 35 Million Tonne of coal. Following measures are taken to ensure adequate supply of coal to power plants:

- (i) Depending upon the availability of indigenous coal, Power Utilities are being advised to import coal to meet the shortfall.
- (ii) Exploring the possibility of overseas asset acquisition and long term tie up for import of coal.