

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3399

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2011

PRICE OF COAL

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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the price of coal has gone up by 89% in the country during the period between 2004 and 2011;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the increase in wholesale price index is only 54% during the said period;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the coal industry of the country is unable to cater to the needs of the consumers despite the said increase in prices; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL)

(a)&(b): No, Sir. During the period the prices of coal have been revised three times and the compound increase from 2004 level is only 39.19%.

(c)&(d): No, Sir. As per the data published by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, the WPI (for all commodities) for 2010-11 is 143.32 against 100 for the Base Year 2004-05, showing an increase of 43.32% only.

(e)&(f): Yes, Sir. Though, demand of coal has not been affected by increase in prices of coal, it is a fact that domestic coal supply is not able to meet the total coal demand. The major constraints in increasing production are:

- (i) Mining Land acquisition difficulties
- (ii) Rehabilitation & Resettlement issues
- (iii) Forest & Environment clearance
- (iv) Law & order problems in many coal mining areas