

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4916  
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2015  
IMPORT OF COAL  
Somaiya Dr. Kirit

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

- (a) whether the import of coal has gone up rapidly during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the cancellation of coal blocks will further push the country to import coal which is costlier than Indian Coal;
- (d) whether it has impact on the prices of power, steel, etc; and
- (e) the Government's view point, observations and action plan in this regard?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL, POWER AND NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY  
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)

(a)&(b): The demand of coal in the domestic market has remained higher than the domestic production level / supply in the country. At the present juncture, the actual production of coal however falls short of the overall demand for coal. Accordingly, the gap between total consumption and domestic supply is met through import of coal. The domestic production of coal has been constrained due to problems in expanding the capacity arising from difficulties in land acquisition, R&R, geo-mining conditions, difficulties in obtaining environment clearance, restrictions arising out of imposition of comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index guidelines and non-availability of forest clearances in time. Law and order condition in some areas and lack of adequate infrastructure for evacuation of coal including delay in construction of rail Infrastructure have also been constraining factor in some major coalfields. The import of coal during last three years is as under:

Import of Coal - (in million tonnes)				
2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	
102.85	145.78	168.44	172.75	
Upto Jan. 2015				

(c)&(d): The import of coal has been kept under Open General License (OGL) and users are free to import coal from the sources of their choice as per their contractual prices on payment of applicable duty. The Hon'ble Supreme Court had permitted coal production from coal producing coal blocks (whose allocation was cancelled) till 31st March, 2015. Accordingly changes in production and import of coal may not be directly ascribable to cancellation of allocation of coal blocks.

(e): In order to minimize the import dependency, the focus of the Government is on facilitating Environment & Forest clearances expeditiously, pursuing with State Government for assistance in land acquisition and coordinated efforts with Railways for movement of coal.