

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5995
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2015
IMPORT OF COAL
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is the world's fourth largest coal producer behind China, United States of America and Indonesia;
- (b) if so, whether even that both China and India are net importer of coal due to largest consumer of coal;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefore in the Indian context;
- (d) whether India's import of coal has increased due to suspension of coal blocks recently; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and demand at present being met by India from indigenous production and import?

Answer

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

(a)to(c):India is the 3rd largest producer of coal in the World. However, depending on the requirements imports take place in India.The import of coal has been 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.

(d)to(e): 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 suspension of allocation of coal blocks. The import of coal has increased from 73.3 Mte. in 2009-10 to 172.7 Mte. in 2014-15 (upto January, 2015).

At present, the actual demand for coal in India exceeds the overall domestic production of coal as is reflected from the fact that the total consumption of coal during 2014-15 was 780.2Mte. including import of coal upto January 2015, whereas, the supply from domestic sources was 607.5 Mte. Accordingly, the gap between total consumption and domestic supply was met through import of coal. Efforts are being made to meet the demand for thermal coalby increasing domestic production. However, due to insufficient coking coal reserves in the country, the demand is expected to continue to be met through imports.