

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4198
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2014
SHORTAGE OF COAL
Mahato Shri Bidyut Baran

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an acute shortage of coal to meet the domestic demand in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the details of the present stock of coal in various parts of the country including Jharkhand;
- (d) whether coal is being imported to tide over the situation; and
- (e) if so, the other steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure regular supply of coal?

Answer

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

(a)to(c): At present, the actual demand for coal in the country exceeds the overall domestic production of coal as is reflected from the fact that the total consumption of coal during 2013-14 was 739.4 Mte. whereas, the supply from domestic sources was 571.3 Mte. Accordingly, the gap between total consumption and domestic supply was met through import of coal. The production of coal has been constrained due to difficulties in acquisition of land, slow pace of environment & forest clearance and constraints in evacuation of coal through the rail network. As per information provided by the Coal India Limited (CIL), the vendible stock of coal in CIL in the country (including in Jharkhand) stood at 33.39 Mte. as on 30.11.2014.

(d)&(e): Where required, coal can be imported by consuming sector as it is under Open General License (OGL) from the sources of their choice as per their contractual prices on payment of applicable duty. During 2013-14, 168.4 million tonnes of coal was imported into India. In order to address the demand supply gap and to augment overall supply of coal from domestic sources, the focus of the Government is on facilitating increase in domestic production of Coal which include efforts to expedite clearances, pursuing with State Government for help in expediting land acquisition and coor- dinated effort with Railways for movement of coal. Steps have been taken by CIL and its subsidiaries to augment coal produ- ction which includes capacity addition from new projects and use of mass production technologies. CIL may also import and supply imported coal to the willing consumers if they so desire and place indent.