

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4342
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2014
SHORTAGE OF COAL
Rathwa Shri Ramsinh Patalyabhai

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that despite having ample reserves of non-coking coal, our country is faced with shortage and resultantly the total imports of coal in 2009-10 are in excess of 50 million tonnes;
- (b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Coal India Limited has not invested for exploration of coal to enhance the capacity;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the alternative steps proposed by the Government to reduce such huge imports of coal, due to sufficient coal reserves in the country?

Answer

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

(a): India has adequate coal reserves for meeting its coal requirements and as such these reserves would be adequate to meet the coal requirement at the present demand level. However, at the present juncture, the actual production of coal falls short of the overall demand. Accordingly, the gap between total consumption and domestic supply is being met through import of coal. The import of non-coking coal in the country has increased from 48.6 Mte. in 2009-10 to 131.3 Mte. in 2013-14.

(b)&(c): The Coal India Limited (CIL) has been investing in exploration and the expenditure incurred during the last three years was Rs. 161.25 crores in 2011-12, Rs. 138.63 crores in 2012-13 and Rs. 310.02 crores in 2013-14. CIL has been able to drill 4.98 lakh meters, 5.62 lakh meters and 6.69 lakh meters respectively during these three years. Because of the detailed exploration undertaken by CIL, about 3-4 billion tonnes of coal reserves is being added each year to the proved category of coal reserves in the country. However, the pace of exploration has been constrained due to limitation on the bore-holes in areas under forest cover and also due to law & order problems prevailing in some areas.

(d): The focus of the Government is to increase coal production to the maximum extent possible by facilitating Environment & Forest clearances expeditiously, pursuing with State Government for assistance in land acquisition and coordinated efforts with Railways for movement of coal. Coal India Limited (CIL) is enhancing production through capacity addition from new projects, use of mass production technologies, and identification of existing ongoing projects with growth potential. In order to strengthen the drilling capacity for exploration, CIL is also bringing in more number of high efficiency hydrostatic drills. The Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDIL) which does the detailed exploration for CIL has signed an MoU with Mineral Exploration Corporation to enhance exploration capacity. Exploration in some blocks is also envisaged with the help of out sourcing agencies.