

Railways sanction ceiling limits for wagon supply to different States. These ceilings are generally not fully utilised. This indicates that demand for coal is by and large met. Production programme of coal companies is formulated keeping demand from coal consumers in view. Barring exception of Southern region there is adequate production and stocks of coal to meet the requirement of coal consumers. Part requirement of Southern region is met from Coals India sources through coastal shipping as well as via all rail route to make up deficit in Southern region. To help individual units having hardships, if any, in coal availability Coal India take following steps:

- (a) Release coal by road against rail shortfall.
- (b) Supply difference between assessed demand and rail sponsored quantity by road upto 200 tonnes per consumers.
- (c) Release coal from specified collieries upto 500 tonnes at a time for the benefit of consumers not having sponsorship etc.

(d) and (e). Production of coal is generally less in the first half of the financial year on account of adverse weather conditions. During this period there is surplus in rail transport capacity. However, with sharp increase in production in latter half of financial year rail transport capacity lags behind production capacity leading to building up of stocks. Efforts are made by coal companies to even out despatches by drawing down stocks during the first half of the financial year.

Utilisation of Gas from Gandhar Fields

6160. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received any memorandum from Gujarat Government about utilisation of gas from Gandhar gas fields;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(c) whether State Government has also represented for piped gas supply to Ahmedabad city; and

(d) the latest position about commitment of gas to Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). The Government of Gujarat had submitted a memorandum on the utilisation of natural gas from Gandhar fields and other sources for various projects in the state.

1.5 MMCMD of gas expected to be produced from Gandhar Phase-I Project has entirely been committed in Gujarat, mainly for power projects. As the production potential from the Gandhar fields is likely to increase in future, it has been agreed, in principle, to provide gas for power projects to be set up by NTPC and Gujarat Electricity Board in the state. Supply of gas for these projects would be subject to coordinated investment approval of the related facilities for gas production.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Government of Gujarat had requested for an initial allocation of about 2 MMCMD of gas for domestic supply in Ahmedabad city through pipeline.

The entire quantity of gas produced in Gujarat stands committed to various users and it has not been possible to make allocation for piped gas supply to Ahmedabad city. The larger question of supply of natural gas as a domestic fuel is under examination of the Government.