

Imported coal based projects in Rajasthan

†3310. SHRI OM PRAKASH MATHUR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Suratgarh and Kota thermal power projects in Rajasthan have been included among the projects using imported coal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government is aware that the transportation cost of coal is going to exceed the import cost of coal; and

(d) whether Government is considering to exclude both these projects from the list of projects using imported coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to bridge the gap of 41 Million Tonne (MT) between demand and availability of indigenous coal, power utilities have been advised to import 28.7 MT of coal during the year 2009-10, which is about 7.1% of the total requirement. Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd. (RRVUNL) has been advised to import 0.8 MT coal for its existing units at Kota and Suratgarh, which is about 5.8% of their total coal requirement.

(c) Government is aware of the high cost of imported coal, including its transportation cost. But import of 28.7 MT coal, which is about 7.1% of total coal requirements is also inevitable to avoid loss of generation due to shortage of coal. Blending of imported coal with indigenous coal beyond certain limits is not possible because of technical limitations of the boiler design. All the major power stations in the country, therefore, have to consume their share of the imported coal. Even pithead power stations are consuming imported coal.

(d) No, Sir.

Coal stock at NTPC's plants

3311. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the coal stocks of power plants under NTPC have been dwindling continuously for the last few months affecting the power generation in these plants;

(b) if so, the details of the requirement of coal and its supply to the power plants under NTPC, month-wise during 2009 and the utilized power generation capacity in this period; and

(c) the reasons for shortage of coal supply and the steps being taken to improve the supply of coal to the power generating plants under NTPC in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI BHARATSINH SOLANKI):

(a) Yes, Sir. Coal stock at some of the NTPC's power stations, namely Farakka, Kahalgaon, Talcher (Kaniha) and Sipat has depleted.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) The details of coal requirement *vis-a-vis* supply and capacity utilization (Plant Load Factor) of Farakka, Kahalgaon, Talcher (Kaniha) and Sipat during 2009-10 (upto June, 2009) is given in the Statement (See below).

(c) Main reason for shortage of coal is inadequate availability of indigenous coal. For the year 2009-10, against the total requirement of 404 Million Tonne (MT), availability of coal from Coal India Limited (CIL) was indicated as 313 MT. Taking into account 30 MT from Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) and 20 MT from Captive mines, total indigenous coal availability was worked out to 363 MT, leaving a gap of 41 MT. In order to bridge the gap between demand and indigenous supply of coal for the current year 2009-10, power utilities have been advised to import 28.7 MT coal.

(d) Following steps are being taken to augment coal supply for NTPC stations:

- The coal supply position to thermal power stations is rigorously monitored by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), Ministry of power as well as an Inter-Ministerial Committee comprising representatives from Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Power and CEA to optimize coal supply to the plants having stock upto 7 days.
- The Infrastructure Constraints Review Committee, headed by Secretary (Co-ordination) in the Cabinet Secretariat, reviews the coal production and supply to thermal power stations in the country **every month**.
- Fuel Infrastructure Committee, under the chairmanship of Member (Power), Planning Commission, regularly reviews the status of supply of fuel to power stations in the country.
- In order to bridge the gap between demand and indigenous supply of coal for the current year 2009-10, power utilities have been advised to import 28.7 Million Tonne (MT) coal including import of 12.5 MT by NTPC. They have already imported 3.6 MT coal upto 30th June 2009 against the order placed during 2008-09.
- Towards ensuring long term fuel security, NTPC has entered into captive coal mining and is in the process of developing six coal blocks allocated to it. NTPC is also exploring the possibility of acquiring stakes in the coal mines from abroad for sourcing coal supply for its power plants.

International Coal Venture Pvt. Ltd. (ICVL), a joint venture company amongst NTPC, RINL, SAIL, NMDC and CIL has been formed for securing metallurgical and thermal coal assets from overseas.

Statement

*Coal Requirement vis-a-vis supply and Plant Load Factor
(During April, May and June, 2009)*

Station	Coal Requirement (ACQ) (Lakh MT) As agreed by CIL				Coal supply** (Lakh MT)			% Materialisation	Plant Load Factor (%)		
	April	May	June	Total	April	May	June		April	May	June
Farakka	7.50	7.50	7.50	22.50	4.82	5.16	5.51	68.8	68.3	85.8	100.7
Kahalgaoon-I (840 MW)	5.00	5.00	5.00	15.00							
Kahalgaoon-II (3x500 MW)*	5.72	5.72	5.72	17.16*	7.38	7.66	7.17	69.0	69.8	74.1	78.3
Talcher (Kaniha)	14.42	14.42	14.42	43.26	11.72	11.93	14.40	88.0	98.6	95.6	89.3
Sipat	4.83	4.83	4.83	14.49	3.78	4.36	4.03	84.0	68.7	70.4	90.0

* Considered at 90% PLF in view of Annual Contracted Quantity (ACQ) being under discussion.

** Coal supply includes imported coal.