

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS**Mining application of GMDC**

466. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Government has recommended a proposal for prior approval of the Ministry for GMDC's mining lease application of lignite bearing areas of 854 hectares in district Bharuch in the year 2007; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Allocation of a lignite block under Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 is a prerequisite before the prior approval of the Central Government is accorded for grant of mining lease under the relevant provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. No lignite block having area of 854 hectares in district Bharuch has been allocated by the Ministry of Coal to the Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Ltd. (GMDCL). Hence question of granting prior approval of mining lease for this area does not arise.

Coal crunch

467. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that the country is facing coal crunch;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this coal crunch is affecting the growth of power projects; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The gap between the projected demand and indigenous availability of coal in the country has been steadily widening over the years. As per projections, this trend is likely to continue in the XII Plan period also. The mismatch between the growth in coal consumption and production is the reason for coal crunch. The general reasons for shortfall of production in the country can be attributed to delay in getting forestry/environmental clearances for new projects, restrictions arising out of imposition of Comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI), Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R and R) issues and Land acquisition problem in a large number of new/expansion projects.

(c) While the coal crunch situation is an accepted phenomenon, the growth of power projects also depends on other factors like land and water availability for the project, financial tie up, evacuation logistics etc.

(d) In order to bridge the gap between demand and indigenous availability, in the Annual Plan exercise of Planning Commission/Ministry of Coal, the quantity required to be imported by the power plants is considered as an important element of the total coal supply plan. Ministry of Power/Central Electricity Authority decide power plant-wise import target so that adequate quantity of coal is available for generation of power as per the demand. Apart from this, the following measures have been/are being taken to increase the coal production in the country:-

- (i) Coal India Limited has been asked to increase production from existing mines and expedite production from new projects.
- (ii) 194 coal blocks have been allotted to different consumers. State and Central Government companies are being allotted Coal mining blocks without restriction of captive mining.
- (iii) exploration for new Coal blocks has been expedited.
- (iv) procedure for project approvals has been streamlined.
- (v) new mining projects are being taken up for achieving additional production capacity.
- (vi) modernization of existing mines.
- (vii) improvement in equipment utilisation.
- (viii) Increasing productivity in underground and opencast mines
- (ix) exploration capacity of CMPDIL being increased.

Availability of coal

468. SHRI R.C. SINGH:

SHRI K.E. ISMAIL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Twelfth Five Year Plan has proposed a power capacity addition of 76,000 MW which would require 842 million tonnes of coal by the end of the Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the present availability of coal and how Government is planning to meet the requirement of coal during the Twelfth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) and (b) The requirement of coal for power utilities for XII Plan period has been estimated on the basis of the demand of power forecast by the 17th Electric Power Survey (EPS) Report of Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The report predicts likely power demand of 1392 Billion Units in 2016-17. If coal based thermal power plants continue to meet 70% of the power requirement of the Country, coal based generation would be around 974 Billion Units, for which requirement of