

speedy development of coal evacuation, rail infrastructure and progress on environment and forest related clearances. The focus of the Government is to take all measures to facilitate increase in production of coal.

Independent pricing authority for coal

2. DR. T. N. SEEMA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has any plans to set up an independent pricing authority for coal;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) the details of the methodology which would be used by such pricing authority to fix the prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The pricing of coal has been fully deregulated by the Government *vide* the Colliery Control Order, 2000 dated 1st January, 2000 in supersession of the Colliery Control Order, 1945. Under the said order, the coal companies themselves fix the coal price based on input costs, inflation index, market trends etc. and notify the same periodically.

Shortage of coal in TPPs

3. DR. PRADEEPKUMAR BALMUCHU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) in the country are suffering from acute shortage of coal due to which electricity generation is deteriorating day-by-day;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the number of TPPs being affected for want of coal, State-wise;
- (d) the remedial measures being taken by Government to improve the supply of coal to these TPPs;
- (e) whether NTPC has brought this shortage to the notice of Government; and
- (f) the assurance given by Government for continued coal supply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) During the period April-May, 2014, coal based power plants have generated 134.9 Billibn Units (BU) as compared to 121.2 BU generated during the same period of last year, registering a growth of 11.3%. As on 29.6.2014, out of 100 coal based power plants monitored by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), 44 power plants were having critical coal stock of less than 7 days' requirement, out of which 26 power plants were having super critical coal stock of less than 4 days' requirement.

During the year 2014-15, as against domestic coal requirement of 527 Million Tonnes (MT), availability of domestic coal is 473 MT, leaving a shortfall of 54 MT. In order to meet this shortfall, power utilities were advised to import coal equivalent to 54 MT. During the period April-May, 2014 power utilities have imported 7.6 MT against pro-rata target of 9.0 MT.

(c) The number of Thermal Power Plants (TPPs) affected for want of coal as on 29.06.2014, state-wise are as under:

Name of the State	TPPs having Critical Stock	TPPs having Super Critical Stock
Delhi	1	0
Haryana	1	0
Punjab	1	0
Rajasthan	2	1
Uttar Pradesh	4	3
Chhattisgarh	4	4
Gujarat	2	1
Madhya Pradesh	5	2
Maharashtra	8	7
Andhra Pradesh	3	3
Telangana	2	0
Karnataka	1	0
Tamil Nadu	2	0
Bihar	1	1
Jharkhand	1	1
Odisha	2	1
West Bengal	4	2
TOTAL	44	26

(d) to (f) In order to ensure adequate availability of coal, Coal India Limited (CIL) has been impressed upon to enhance production of domestic coal in the country and power utilities have also been advised to enhance import of coal.

In addition to above, with a view to monitor coal supplies to Power Utility Sector, an Inter-Ministerial Sub-Group comprising representatives of Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Railways has been constituted. This Sub-Group takes various

operational decisions for meeting any contingent situations relating to Power sector including critical coal stock position.

Further, CIL has offered all Power Generating Companies drawing coal under Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs), to lift the coal on "as is where is" basis with the stipulation that they will make their own evacuation arrangements. This scheme was earlier implemented by the coal companies, has been extended for 2014-15 also. All TPPs including National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) having FSA from CIL sources have been informed to lift coal under this scheme by arranging their own logistics for movement from coal offered from various pithead locations. CIL has also offered 1 MT of coal from cost plus mines of Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) through short term Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) as extension of above scheme to power stations of NTPC presently facing critical stock issues arising out of less receipt of coal from other coal companies.

As per the CEA report out of 44 TPPs having critical stock as on 29.06.2014, 11 TPPs are of NTPC & NTPC-JVs. Out of these 11 TPPs, supply for 5 TPPs is in line with FSA commitments and supply for 6 TPPs is affected due to less wagon supply by railways against indents placed by coal companies. All out efforts are being made by coal companies for continued supply of coal to TPPs in the country.

Gap between demand and supply of coal

4. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is huge gap between demand and supply of coal to the coal based power plants;
- (b) whether many plants are working below capacity or have a few days coal reserves;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) what efforts are being made to meet the demand in coal sector;
- (e) whether Government also intends to privatise coal production in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The all India demand for the coal based power utilities sector during 2014-15 has been assessed by the Ministry of Coal / Planning Commission to be 551.60 Million Tonnes (MTs), whereas the supply of coal to this sector has been projected to be 466.89 MTs during 2014-15.