

Import of Coal

485. SHRI K.T.S. TULSI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state the total amount of coal imported by the country during 2015 and till July, 2016?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):
As per Coal Controller's Organization report, during the year 2015-16, import of coal was 199.88 Million tonnes and during the current year upto July, 2016, import of coal was 71.35 Mte.

Export of Thermal Coal

486. SHRI K. T. S. TULSI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether India could become a competitive exporter of thermal coal given the surplus coal stocks lying in the country before the next fiscal year; and

(b) if so, the steps, if any, taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):
(a) and (b) Indian non coking thermal coal of lower calorific value with higher ash content are not comparable with quality of coal usually traded in international market. However, because of the cheaper price of Indian thermal coal in comparison to coal from other countries there is demand for such coal in the neighbouring land locked countries like Nepal, Bhutan and also in Bangladesh. Since domestic coal demand for thermal grade coal is picking up with depletion in stock and CIL is augmenting thermal coal supply to domestic power plants to reduce imported coal consumption, exporting lower grades of coal in the current market scenario is not contemplated. CIL is exploring opportunities to export Indian coal having high ash content or high grade coal to the neighbouring countries as the demand for such type of coal is comparatively less in the domestic market. Presently, a very small quantity of such coal is exported to such countries.

Land allocation to Public Sector Coal Companies in Maharashtra

†487. SHRI AMAR SHANKAR SABLE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to conduct a detailed survey to ascertain the availability of coal in the land allocated to public sector coal companies and if so, by when and the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.