

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The year-wise import of coking coal in India during the last three years i.e. 2015-16 to 2017-18 and current year 2018 (April 2018 to May, 2018) is given below.

(in Million Tonnes)	
Year	Coking Coal
2015-16	44.56
2016-17	41.64
2017-18 (P)	47.00
2018-19 Upto May 2018	8.73

(P) Provisional

(b) An increase in cost of coking coal will increase the cost of production of steel.

(c) The entire demand of coking coal is not met indigenously as the supply of high quality coal/ coking coal (low-ash-coal) in the country is limited and thus no option is left but to resort to import of coking coal. As per the current import policy, coal is kept under Open General License (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal from the source of their choice as per their contractual prices on payment of applicable duty. Further, Coal India Limited (CIL) has a plan to augment supply of Coking Coal through washed coking coal. Presently, 11 Coking coal washeries having a total capacity of 20.58 Mt are in operation in CIL. CIL has a plan to construct another 9 washeries for Coking coal with a capacity of 28.10 Mt by the year 2020.

#### **Steel grade coking coal**

2776. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the extent of exploration to unearth steel grade coking coal in the country;
- (b) how much budget has been allocated towards the above and the present status of ongoing projects;
- (c) the reasons for steel plants purchasing coal blocks from international suppliers, resulting in fluctuation in importing prices, which affects steel prices in the country; and

(d) whether Coal India Limited (CIL) is importing coking coal (steel grade) from abroad, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) As per the "National Inventory of Coal" published by Geological Survey of India (GSI), the coking coal resources in the country as on 01.04.2018 is 34,522.46 million tonne.

(b) No specific budget has been exclusively allotted for exploration of coking coal in the / country. However, under the Central Sector Scheme for regional/ promotional exploration and detailed exploration of coal/lignite in non-CIL blocks, budget of ₹ 500 Crore has been allotted by the Government for the financial year 2018-19. In the CIL coal blocks, the cost of exploration is borne by the concerned subsidiary companies of CIL.

(c) Steel is deregulated sector and matters regarding purchase of coal blocks are a commercial decision of the individual companies. It is further mentioned that the steel companies are importing coal to bridge the gap between total coking coal requirement and indigenous availability both in quantitative and qualitative terms.

(d) Coal India Limited (CIL) is not importing any coal.

#### **Deaths reported in Andhra Pradesh coal mines and fields**

2777. SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1330 given in the Rajya Sabha on 29 December, 2017 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 16 people were killed in Andhra Pradesh in coal mines and coal fields in 2016;

(b) if so, whether any deaths/ accidents have been reported in 2017 and 2018;

(c) the details of coal mines and coal fields in which above-cited 16 people died, mine/field-wise;

(d) whether there are any deaths reported from Chintalapudi where coal reserves have been discovered recently; and

(e) the details of compensation paid and employment given to next of kin of those killed?