

Rise in number of critical and super critical thermal power plants

1178. SHRI JOSE K. MANI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of thermal power plants running with critical (less than 7 days stock) and super critical (less than 3-4 days stock) stocks have significantly increased during the January-May period of 2018 against the year-ago period;

(b) whether the coal shortage in the thermal power plants would persist at least for three years to come and whether the States and NTPC and also the private power producers would be allowed to import coal; and

(c) whether there has been inordinate delay in obtaining environmental and forest clearances for opening new mines, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) The stock at power plants depends on number of factors like availability of suitable transport arrangement, payment of outstanding dues of the coal company, scheduling of power depending on merit order dispatch position of the plants etc. Further, to meet the power demand, many generating companies have opted to divert coal to the more cost efficient power plants under the provisions of Flexible utilization of domestic coal policy (June-2016). As a result, there is no pithead power plant under critical/supercritical category as per CEA daily coal stock report of 25.07.2018.

Although the number of non-pit head thermal power plants in critical and super critical category have increased during the January-May 2018 against the year ago period, the coal based power generation has exceeded its programme generation as per details given in table below:—

(Fig. in BU)

Coal Based Generation	January-May, 2017	January-May, 2018
Programme	402.473	413.778
Actual Genration	402.693	423.551
% of Programme	100.1	102.4
Last Year Same Period	386.268	402.693
% Growth	4.3	5.2

(b) There is no shortage of coal by and large, for power sector. In the beginning of 2018-19, Coal India Limited (CIL) had a pithead stock of 55.55 MT whereas stock at power house end was 16.27 MT. During the 1st Quarter of 2018-19, CIL dispatched a record quantity of 122.2 MT coal to Power sector, thereby achieving a growth of 14.8% over and above the last year dispatch during the same period.

Growth in dispatch of coal to Power sector has helped coal based generation to achieve positive growth of 5.3% as compared to last year and 101.3% of the programme in the 1st quarter of 2018-19 as per CEA Generation report for June, 2018. This is despite the fact that generation from imported coal based plants was 66% of the programme in the first quarter of 2018-19. Similarly, in 2017-18, generation from imported coal based plants was 85% of the programme. This shows that shortfall in generation from imported coal based plants was also compensated by increased power generation from plants based on domestic coal. Also, considering the demand projection of Power Sector by CEA and production plan of CIL, no shortage of domestic coal in power sector is anticipated for the coming years.

(c) Environment clearance and forest clearances for coal mining is obtained from Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) after following due process laid down in the rules. By and large, there has been no inordinate delay in obtaining environmental and forest clearances for opening new mines. Due to co-ordinated effort of Ministry of Coal (MoC) and MoEF&CC, since 2014-15 to 2018-19 (June, 2018), CIL and its subsidiaries, obtained Environment Clearance (Incremental) of 146.99 MT. Further, during 2014-15 to 2018-19 (June, 2018) CIL and its subsidiaries, obtained Stage I forest clearance of 36 proposals involving 4722.21 Hectare (Ha) and Stage II forest Clearance of 31 proposals involving 3592.78 Ha.

Coal shortages leading to critical situation of power plants

1179. SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether all power plants in the country, across States, are in a critical situation due to coal shortages;

(b) whether Ministry has received any specific requests from the Ministry of Power in diverting coal supplies to independent power producers, if so, the details thereof;

(c) the share of coal supply to private and public power plants in the country during this shortage period of coal supplies;

(d) whether any State Government has started importing coal from neighbouring countries, if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the alternative methods adopted by them to tackle with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) There is no shortage of coal, by and large, for the power sector. In the first quarter 2018-19, Coal India Limited (CIL) dispatched a record quantity of 122.2 MT coal to Power sector, thereby