

Reduction of import of coal

†2377. SHRI LAL SINH VADODIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is seriously contemplating on reducing the import of coking coal;
- (b) if so, whether Government has taken any effective steps in this regard so far; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) During FY 2018-19, import of coking coal was 51.84 MT (Prov.). The entire demand of coking coal is not met from domestic production 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.

(b) and (c) Reduction in Import of coal in the country is always a priority area of the Government. In order to increasing the availability of coking coal, following steps are taken by the Government:

- Coal India Limited (CIL) has planned to increase coking coal production from 34.12 to 52.95 MT (2019-20) (growth: > 50%).
- Notification of additional 2 coking coal grades viz. W-V & W-VI.
- New 9 coking coal washeries being set up by CIL by 2020-21.
- Long term Fuel Supply Agreements (FSAs) with Steel companies -10-15 years' linkage to Steel Sector.
- Supply of washed coking coal to Steel sector - will be enhanced to 15 MT in 3/4 years from now from the present level of 1.6 MT.

Safety audit of coal mines

2378. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has conducted safety audit of all coal mines across the country including the mines of Neyveli Lignite Corporation in Tamil Nadu;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.