

**WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS****Domestic coal production**

†\*2. SHRI AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's domestic coal production has fallen down sharply in the current financial year, leading to substantial increase in coal import;

(b) if so, the reasons behind falling coal production and the steps taken by Government to address the situation; and

(c) the amount of coal imported during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) It is a fact that during the current financial year 2019-20, all India coal production has shown a negative growth. During April-December 2019 domestic production was 480.04 Million tonnes as compared to 498.51 Million tonnes (MT) during corresponding period of 2018-19. While there was a positive growth in production in the first quarter of the current year (April-June 19), production has been slipping since July. This was largely due to heavy rainfall witnessed in the coal mining areas in the current year which was around 25% more than the previous year. Further, rains -also continued during the month of October. However, production has started showing an upward trend since November 2019 and the country achieved highest ever production of 69.6 MT in the last five years in December 2019.

As per latest available coal imports statistics, during April-October, 2019, the import of coal was 143.74 MT as compared to 133.13 MT in the corresponding period of 2018-19 showing a positive growth of 7.97%. The growth in coal imports during the current year is largely because of increase in coal imports by private coastal power plants which registered a growth of 17.2% and power plants importing coal for blending purposes which registered a growth of 18.5%. The quantum of domestic production has little impact on these categories of imports.

(b) The focus of the Government is on accelerating domestic production of coal through allocation of more coal blocks, pursuing with State Government for

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

assistance in land acquisition and coordinated efforts with Railways for movement of coal.

In order to enhance domestic production, 25% of coal production has been allowed for sale of coal for newly allocated coal blocks.

Further, for sale of coal, allowing 100% FDI for coal mining activities including associated processing infrastructure is expected to attract international players and create efficient and competitive coal market.

In order to enhance coal production, Coal India Limited (OIL) has taken the following steps:

- Opening of 55 greenfield projects having capacity of 92 MTPA and expansion of 193 brownfield projects having capacity of about 310 MTPA in next five years.
- Portal based monitoring of on-going projects to ensure timely completion of projects.
- Introduction of state of the art technology to improve its work efficiency with high capacity Heavy Earth Moving Machinery (HEMM), like 42 cum Shovel and 240 T Rear Dumpers in Gevra Expansion, Dipka & Kusmunda open cast mines.
- Introduction of Surface Miners in opencast mines to improve operational efficiency & to cater to environmental needs. During 2018-19 in OIL, around 50% of the opencast coal production was through Surface miners.
- Introduction of IT enabled Operator Independent Truck Dispatch System (OITDS) in 11 nos. of mines of CIL.
- Introduction of Mass Production Technology in underground coal mines, 2 mines are worked with Powered Support Longwall technology and 9 mines are worked with Continuous Miner technology.
- For rapid coal evacuation, 19 nos. Coal Handling Plants with silos and rapid loading system having existing capacity of 152.5 million tonnes are in operation.

(c) The total coal imports during last three years is given below:-

(Qty. in Million Tonnes)

Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
	Quantity	Quantity	Quantity
TOTAL	190.95	208.27	235.24

#### **Renovation of NH-330**

\*3. SHRI AHMAD ASHFAQUE KARIM: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that owing to worsening condition of Faizabad-Raebareli National Highway (NH) No. 330, a severe problem of traffic has arisen;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the bridge over Gomti River on NH No. 330 is narrow and dilapidated, which makes that area mishap prone; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to renovate the dilapidated bridge and improve the condition of the National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) The stretch from Faizabad to Raebareli of National Highway-330 A is in traffic worthy condition. At some locations, potholes have developed which are repaired. No severe traffic problem has been observed due to road condition.

(b) and (c) Although the existing bridge at River Gomti is old and narrow, but it is in traffic worthy condition. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for 4-lanning of Raebareli-Jagdishpur section is initiated and a new bridge over River Gomti is proposed in the DPR. The work for 4-lanning of Jagdishpur - Ayodhya section for a length of 60.22 km with an aggregate cost of ₹ 1445.49 crore has already been approved and is at bidding stage.

#### **Annual consumption of copper**

\*4. SHRI MAJEED MEMON: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that copper is the most widely used metal in India for industrial and other allied uses;