

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1626
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2021**

Impact of coal shortage on tea gardens in the Northeast

1626. MS. SUSHMITA DEV:

Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the impact of recent coal shortages on tea gardens in the Northeast region;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the State-wise data on the number of tea producing units in the Northeast and the number of such units which primarily depend on coal, as on date;
- (d) whether Government has implemented or intends to implement measures to reduce dependence on coal in tea producing units in the Northeast and to facilitate transition to renewable forms of energy; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES

(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) & (b): There is no shortage of coal in the country. Coal India Limited (CIL) has dispatched around 64 Million Tonnes (MT) more coal during April - November'21 in comparison to the same period of last year. CIL has dispatched 421.11 MT coal during this period, against 357.13 MT during the same period of last fiscal. CIL is also holding a stock of about 31.70 MT as on 08.12.2021.

(c): Out of the 824 tea factories, 402 tea factories primarily depend on coal and other fuels. The State-wise number of tea factories in the North East is as under:

State	Total No. of Factories
Assam	771
Arunachal Pradesh	22
Meghalaya	6
Nagaland	3
Sikkim	1
Tripura	21
Total	824

(d) & (e): Natural gas is available to 422 tea factories that are distributed in Tinsukia, Dibrugarh, Charideo, Sibsagar, Jorhat and Golaghat Districts of Assam. The Government has set a target for installing 175 GW of Renewable Energy capacity (excluding large hydro) by the year 2022. So far a cumulative total of 103.05 GW of grid connected renewable energy capacity (excluding large hydro) has been cumulatively installed in the country as on 31.10.2021.
