

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*48
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2022**

Measures to prevent coal shortage and energy crisis

***48 Shri Derek O' Brien:**

Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

- (a) the measures taken by Government to prevent a resurgence of the coal shortage and energy crisis seen in November, 2021;
- (b) the measures taken to diversify the supply chain away from Coal India Limited, which currently supplies nearly eighty per cent of our coal based energy requirements; and
- (c) the possible effects of Indonesia export ban in January, 2022, on India's coal supply and measures being taken to offset this?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES

(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 48 for answer on 07.02.22 asked by SHRI DEREK O' BRIEN:

(a): There is no shortage of coal in thermal power plants in the country. Even in 2021, coal stocks came down at thermal power plants due to evacuation issues, but there was adequate coal available in the country. In 2021-22 (upto January 2022) Coal India Limited (CIL) has supplied coal to the tune of 441.35 Million Tonnes (MT) (provisional). The total coal stock at the power plants end has increased from 10.82 MT as on 31.10.2021 to 25.31 MT as on 31.01.2022.

The following steps have been taken to improve coal supplies for meeting increased demand in the country:

i. In order to address the issues of coal supplies to power sector, an Inter-Ministerial Sub-Group comprising of representatives from Ministry of Power, Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Railways, CEA, CIL and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) meet regularly to take various operational decisions to enhance supply of coal to thermal power plants as well as for meeting any contingent situations relating to power sector including critical coal stock position in power plants.

ii. CIL had offered additional coal of about 5.2 MT (in October'21) and 6.0 MT (in December'21) from its various subsidiaries to States, Central Gencos for lifting through Rail-cum-Road(RCR)/ Road Mode.

(b): 107 coal block have been allocated under the provision of CM(SP) Act and 18 coal block have been allocated under MMDR Act for Power Sector, NRS Sector, Sale of Coal under auction/allotment mode.

The Ministry of Coal has amended Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 with a view to encourage domestic coal production enhancement from captive mines by allowing sale of coal or lignite, on payment of additional amount, by the lessee of a captive mine up to 50 percent of the total coal or lignite produced in a financial year, after meeting the requirement of the end use plant linked with the mine. Earlier this year, the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act had been amended to this effect. This is applicable for both the private and public sector captive mines. With this amendment, the Government has paved the way for releasing of additional coal in the market by greater utilization of mining capacities of captive coal and lignite blocks, which were being only partly utilized owing to limited production of coal for meeting their captive needs.

(c): Indonesia has relaxed export ban and few coal vessels have already departed in the last days of January'22. The export ban in major period of January'22, has provided an opportunity to supply more domestic coal. CIL supplied 50.7 MT coal to power sector in January 2022, achieving a growth of 24% in comparison to January 2021 supply of 40.8 MT. Ministry of Power has projected a requirement of 727 MT domestic coal for coal based power generation for the year 2022-23. India's dependence on imports for meeting thermal coal demand has sharply reduced. In FY23, this demand shall be met from CIL, SCCL and coal production from captive coal blocks.
