

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL  
RAJYA SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO.\*58  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.02.2022**

**Problems faced by coal sector**

**\*58 Dr. L. HANUMANTHAIHAH:**

**Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:**

- (a) the salient problems faced by the coal sector in the country;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the quality of domestic coal is deteriorating gradually and becoming unfit for power generation; and
- (c) if so, plan of Government given that country faced a low coal supply for generating electricity recently?

**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. 58 for answer on 07.02.22 asked by Dr. L. HANUMANTHAI AH:**

**(a):** The major challenges of supply of coal faced during the current fiscal were as under:

- i. Un-seasonal and extended rainfall in the coal bearing areas.
- ii. Surge in Covid-19 cases/ State Lockdown during the second and third wave of Covid pandemic in India.
- iii. Non-Payment of commensurate Coal value along with huge outstanding dues by Power Sector consumers.
- iv. Frequent Labour/ Industrial Relation (IR) issues in the Coal fields.
- v. Land acquisition issues.

**(b):** Indian thermal coal has a low calorific content and high ash. While this leads to higher coal demand per unit of power generation, but Indian thermal power plants have been set up to match the property of Indian coal. The grade conformation of the coal supplies to power utilities and weighted average Gross Calorific Value (GCV) of coal during the last two years has improved as appended below. Besides, Plant Load Factor (PLF) of power plants has also increased during this period.

Year	Grade conformity in terms of dispatched coal to power utilities (%)	Weighted average GCV of coal dispatched from CIL Subsidiaries to power utilities (GCV in Kcal/Kg)	Plant Load Factor (PLF) of Thermal power plants as per Ministry of Power website	Specific coal consumption (SPCC)
2020-21	62.8	4102	53.37	0.65
2021-22 (Till Dec' 21)	64.5	4230	57.16	0.65

**(c):** There is no shortage of supply of coal from Coal India Limited (CIL) sources, being the single largest supplier of domestic coal in India. CIL has provided coal supplies to the tune of 542.5 Million Tonnes (MT) during the current fiscal (upto January '22), in comparison to last year same period figures of 463.1 MT achieving a growth of about 17%.

A number of thermal power plants exist in the country that are based on imported coal and their equipment is accordingly designed. Due to increased coal supply from domestic coal sources and high price of International Coal, the coal import by these power plants was less during the current Fiscal. The import-based power plants generated less in this fiscal whereas the domestic coal-based power plants registered a growth of more than 11 % over last year same period. This resulted in more coal demand from domestic coal sources. This demand has been met by enhanced supply of coal from domestic sources. However, domestic coal supplies have been increased this year and the coal stock at the domestic coal based power plants is sufficient at 24.47 MT as on 31.01.2022.

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