

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.1310
TO BE ANSWERED ON 14.03.2022

Reduction in import of coking and non-coking coal

1310. SHRI SAMBHAJI CHHATRAPATI:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country imports about half of its requirement every year spending substantial foreign exchange despite huge coal reserves within the country;
- (b) if so, the details of indigenous production, imports and requirement of coking and non-coking coal including the reasons for resorting to imports;
- (c) the emphatic steps taken by Government for developing adequate technology for indigenous production of coking coal to curb import; and
- (d) whether the country has entered into tie-ups with the countries which possess advanced technology for the production of coking coal and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)

(a)&(b): Demand of coal is higher than the current level of domestic supply of coal in the country. The gap between demand and domestic supply of coal cannot be bridged completely as there is insufficient availability and reserve of prime coking coal in the country. Further, coal imported by power plants designed on imported coal and high grade coal required for blending purposes is also imported in the country as this cannot be fully substituted by domestic coal as the country has limited reserve of high grade 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. Government of India does not interfere in this matter.

The total actual demand of coal during 2020-21 was 906.13 Million Tones (MT). Out of which total coal import was 215.25 MT which was 23.75% of the total requirement. The details of indigenous production, import and requirement of coking and non-coking coal (actual demand) during the year 2020-21 is as under:-

Sl. No.	Item	2020-21 (Fig. in MT)		
		Coking Coal	Non-Coking Coal	Total
1.	Domestic Production	44.79	671.30	716.09
2.	Domestic Supply	44.00	646.88	690.88
3.	Import	51.20	164.05	215.25
4.	Actual Requirement (2+3)	95.20	810.93	906.13

(c): Coking coal mission has been launched for increase in the coking coal production from present 45 MT to 140 MT by 2029-30. This will help in reducing the import of coking coal as it can be blended with high grade imported prime coking coal for steel manufacturing.

(d): Latest technology e.g. Continuous Miner for underground mines, surface miner for opencast mines, latest HEMMs etc. are already in vogue for production of coal in the country.