

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.2426
TO BE ANSWERED ON 08.08.2022

Import of coal

2426. DR. JOHN BRITTAS:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken a policy decision to allow States to import coal directly;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the policy change;
- (c) the details of the States that have accordingly decided to import coal;
- (d) the details of the quantity of coal agreed to be imported; and
- (e) whether Government will consider importing coal on its own and distributing to the States in distress?

Answer

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

(a)to(e): 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. However, Ministry of Power advised power plants on 28.04.2022 to import coal for blending purpose during 2022-23 to ensure adequate coal stocks in power plants before onset of monsoon. It was decided on 27.05.2022 that CIL would import coal for blending purpose and supply to TPPs of State Gencos and IPPs. Recently, Ministry of Power has reviewed the coal stock position of the States and Gencos and found that states have coal stock of more than 50% of normative level. As such, Ministry of Power has decided on 01.08.2022 that now onward, States/IPPes and Ministry of Coal may decide the blending percentage after assessing the availability of domestic coal supplies.

Accordingly, some states are importing coal through their own orders, and some other states have given their indents for import of coal to Coal India Ltd. (CIL). During the first quarter from April to June of 2022, the total import of coal for blending purpose by different utilities was 0.55 MT. So far, five States have also signed agreement with CIL for import of 0.511 MT. coal for the month of August and September, 2022.
