

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No.29
TO BE ANSWERED ON 18.07.2022

Impact of lowering coal imports

29. SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the impact of lowering coal imports;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government has a plan to ensure continued supply in the country to meet the existing demand for power generation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a)&(b): Domestic production/supply of coal meets about 80% of the total coal demand in the country. India imported about 20% of the total coal demand during 2021-22. Import of coking coal for Steel Industry and high GCV coal (G1-G8) for blending and other industrial uses which constitutes about 65% of the total import is presently non-substitutable because of limited domestic production. As such there has been no significant fall in import of coal in recent years. However, the Government has initiated a number of steps to reduce substitutable coal import through enhanced domestic production. The details of total coal demand, domestic supply and import of coal during the last five years are given below:

(Figures in Million Tonnes)

Year	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Total Demand	898.25	968.14	955.72	905.88	1027.58
Domestic Supply	690.00	732.79	707.18	690.89	818.65
Import	208.25	235.35	248.54	215.25	208.93

(c)&(d): In order to meet the increasing demand of coal in the country, the Government has taken up several measures to increase coal production. 100% Foreign Direct Investment is allowed for commercial mining. An Inter-Ministerial Committee has also been constituted in 2020 for the purpose of coal import substitution. Except allowing for very essential import like coking coal and other higher grade coal which are presently non-substitutable, effort are being taken to substitute import of lower grade coal by domestic coal. Other important measures include Commercial Auction of coal on revenue sharing basis, allowing sale of coal or lignite by the lessee of a captive mine up to 50 percent of the annual production after meeting the requirement of the concerned plant, rolling auctions of coal mines and Single Window Clearance portal to speed up the operationalisation of coal mines.
