

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.504
TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.12.2021**

Shortage of Coal

504. SHRI RAVNEET SINGH BITTU:

Will the Minister of Coal be pleased to state:

- (a) whether recently most of the coal-fuelled power projects in the country suffered from depleted coal stocks resulting in power outage in the country;
- (b) if so, the details of the gap between the demand and actual supply of coal in these power projects, State/ UT-wise along with reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government is taking any measures and has devised any comprehensive strategy to augment the availability of coal and ensure sufficient supply of coal in these power plants to prevent any such power outages in future; 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): Due to increased demand of power, less power generation by imported coal based power plants and some interruption in supply of coal due to heavy rains, the coal stock at the power plants depleted to 7.2 Million Tonne (MT) (sufficient for 4 days) as on 8th October, 2021. Subsequently with increased coal supplies, the coal stock has started increasing and has now reached 16.74 MT (sufficient for 9 days) as on 25.11.2021. Coal India Limited (CIL) has dispatched around 54 Million Tonnes (MT) more coal during April - October'21 in comparison to the same period of last year. CIL has dispatched 291.72 MT coal during this period, against 237.75 MT during the same period of last fiscal.

The month-wise gap between Energy Requirement and Energy Supplied in the country has varied from 0.3% to 1.1% only during the year 2021-22 (April-October). However, even this gap is generally on account of factors other than inadequacy of coal availability in the country e.g. constraints in distribution network, financial constraints, commercial reasons, forced outage of generating units etc.

(b): The state-wise details of coal receipt and consumption in the power plants during 2020-21 (Apr-Sep) is as under:-

Figs. in Thousand Tonnes

April-Sep, 2021		
Name of the State	Coal Receipt	Coal Consumption
Haryana	5170	6811
Punjab	6852	7656
Rajasthan	9055	9553
Uttar Pradesh	41178	44589
Chhattisgarh	50596	53695
Gujarat	13916	13282
Madhya Pradesh	37942	40289
Maharashtra	35163	36771
Andhra Pradesh	17561	18028
Karnataka	7348	7730
Tamil Nadu	15854	15816
Telangana	15173	15424
Bihar	13412	14466
Jharkhand	8025	9137
Odisha	21565	22432
West Bengal	24314	26764
Assam	1076	1208
TOTAL	324200	343651

(c) & (d): In order to maintain adequate coal stock with power plants, various steps have been taken by the Government which are as under:

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, Central Electricity Authority (CEA), CIL and 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 about 5.2 MT of additional coal from its various subsidiaries to States, Central Gencos for lifting through RCR/ Road Mode.

iii. In addition to Annual Contracted Quantity (ACQ), coal has been offered under RCR mode on 'as is where basis' to build up stock at Power house end is.

iv. 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.
