

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL  
LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION No. 107  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 25.07.2018**

**Coal Imports**

**\*107. SHRI A.ARUNMOZHITHEVAN:**

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the coal imports have increased due to transport constraints;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the trend of coal imports is expected to continue as power, cement and steel industries are expected to witness improvement in demand and capacity utilisation; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**ANSWER**

**MINISTER OF RAILWAYS, COAL, FINANCE & CORPORATE AFFAIRS  
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

**(a) to (d):** A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 107 ANSWERED ON 25.07.2018 ASKED BY SHRI A.ARUNMOZHITHEVAN REGARDING "COAL IMPORTS".**

**(a) & (b):** Coal imports have constantly reduced from 217.78 MT in 2014-15 to 190.95 MT in 2016-17. However, during 2017-18, coal imports increased to 208.27 MT due to increase in demand by the consuming sectors. There is no official report to suggest that coal imports have increased due to transport constraints. In fact, coal imports by power plants has reduced from 80.58 MT in 2015-16 to 56.41 MT in 2017-18. The annual average rakes provided by Railways for coal despatch from Coal India Limited (CIL) has increased constantly from 194.5 (rakes/day) in 2014-15 to 229.2 (rakes/day) in 2017-18.

**(c) & (d):** Coal is imported to bridge the gap between domestic demand and domestic supply. Niti Aayog has estimated a higher coal demand for Power, Cement and Steel in 2018-19 as compared to 2017-18. In order to increase domestic supply, CIL has been given a higher aspirational production and despatch targets, which are being reviewed regularly. It may be mentioned that in the first quarter of 2018-19, CIL produced and despatched 136.87 MT and 153.43 MT which shows a growth of 15.2% and 11.7% respectively. The growth in dispatch of coal to power sector has helped coal based generation to achieve positive growth of 5.3% in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2018-19. This is 101.3% of programme generation for coal based power. CIL has been directed to work out a definite action plan to ensure higher production and offtake in future. CIL has also been directed to ensure that necessary clearances for the existing coal mines are in place which will help in increasing the coal production in the short/medium term and also operationalizing the newly allocated coal mines for further increasing production in the medium term. New rail lines are being laid for smooth evacuation of increased coal production from the mines of growing coalfields of South Eastern Coalfields Limited, Mahanadi Coalfields Limited and Central Coalfields Limited.

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