

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2434
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2006
KOTA AND SURATGARH POWER PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for inclusion of Kota and Suratgarh Super Thermal Projects in the import list of coal;
- (b) whether imported coal proves costlier than indigenous coal for both these projects; and
- (c) if so, the remedial measures taken in the matter?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE)

(a) : In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply of coal from domestic sources, it was decided that power utilities would have to import around 13 Million Tonnes (MT) and 20 MT of coal during the 2005-06 and 2006-07 respectively. The thermal power stations were considered for import of coal on the basis of following criteria:

- (i) Coastal Power Stations.
- (ii) Stations where availability of coal is a constraint.
- (iii) Stations situated at long distances from pithead.
- (iv) Stations which are traditional importers.

Kota and Suratgarh Super Thermal Power Stations, being situated at long distance from the pit-head, were included for import of coal.

(b) & (c) : The quantum of coal to be imported by any power station has been limited to 10-15% of its annual coal requirement, in order to enable blending of imported coal with domestic coal keeping in view boiler design considerations. It is observed that additional impact of imported coal on the cost of generation is marginal due to high calorific value and low ash content of imported coal resulting in improved operational performance and savings in maintenance cost and railway freight; apart from meeting the norms specified by Ministry of Environment and Forests.