

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:108
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2007
SHORTAGE OF COKING COAL
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether SAIL is facing shortage of coking coal for implementing of its proposed expansion programme;
- (b) if so, whether it is importing coking coal even to meet the present requirement;
- (c) if so, details thereof;
- (d) whether Steel Authority of India is contemplating to acquire coking coal block overseas to meet the future requirement;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether SAIL has also considered joining hand with Coal India Limited (CIL) to acquire overseas coal block as well as to jointly mine coking coal block in the country; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During 2005-06, out of total requirement of 14 MT of coking coal, only 5.2MT was available from indigenous sources and balance to the tune of 8.8 MT was imported. With an expansion plan which envisages capacity increase to produce 23.8MT hot metal by 2010, SAIL will require 22.5 MTPA washed coking coal, whereas present availability of washed coking coal from indigenous sources is around 5 MTPA.

(d)&(e): SAIL is exploring preliminary possibilities of acquiring some equity stakes in coking coal mines abroad.

(f)&(g): SAIL may consider joining hands with Coal India Limited (CIL) to acquire overseas coal block depending upon the nature of the proposal on case-to-case basis.

SAIL has signed an MOU on 27th April, 2006 with Bharat Coking Coal Limited [BCCL] (a Subsidiary of CIL) to fund phase-1 up gradation of Moonidih Mine, and is also in dialogue with BCCL/CIL for developing Kapuria block in Jharia coal fields jointly.