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Title: Insufficient supply of coal to the thermal power stations due to shortage of rail wagons.

SK. SAIDUL HAQUE (BARDHMAN-DURGAPUR): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me the chance. For the last few months, there is power crisis all over the country. Power production centres particularly the thermal power production centres are not able to generate required power as per their capacity due to lack of coal. The problem has become acute in my State, West Bengal. The hon. Coal Minister has told in the Upper House that there is no shortage of coal. As per the Coal Minister's statement, the problem lies with the supply of coal to the power generating stations due to lack of railway wagons, and that is why, coal is not being sent to the power generating stations. As per the statement, 166.5 railway wagons are needed, but only 157 wagons are supplied per day by the Railway Ministry.

On the other hand, the hon. Railway Minister is claiming that there is no shortage of railway wagons for carrying such coal. So, the two Ministers are giving contradictory statements and I do not know which one is correct. It is a fact that coal is not properly supplied to the thermal power stations and as a result the power production is hampered.

Apart from that, what is more alarming is that the Coal Authority sometimes supplies low quality of coal to the power generating stations which is hampering the power production.

In such a situation, I would urge upon the Government to supply proper quality of coal with sufficient wagons to the thermal power stations all over the country, particularly in West Bengal, so that power generation is not hampered.