>

Title: Need to allocate coal to thermal power units in Gujarat from Western Coal Fields.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (AHMEDABAD EAST): The State of Gujarat is on the Western Coast of India and is at a distance of more than 1600 kms from the eastern coal belt. As a result of this, the freight cost on coal is higher than the actual coal cost resulting into higher cost of generation of power. It is to be appreciated that Gujarat suffers from a negative thermal hydro mix of 92.8 against the normal ratio of 60:40 (Thermal: Hydro). Thus, the state is highly dependent on thermal generation based on coal from collieries far away from the State. This issue was taken up with the Central Government for appropriate action. In this regard, Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Ltd. (GSEC) has a total coal based generating capacity of 3,430 MW and the total coal requirement of these 4 Thermal Power Stations is 200 lakh MT per annum and against these requirement, GSEC is having coal linkages of 164.4 lakhs MT from South Eastern Coal Ltd. and only a meager of 9.3 lakhs MT from Western Coal Field. Further, GSEC is also importing 14.8 lakhs MT of Coal per annum. To fully mitigate the requirement of coal, GSEC has to import additional quantity of coal to the tune of 11 lakhs MT per annum involving additional financial burden of Rs. 440 crores per annum, which is a huge amount and if Government of India is not able to mitigate this gap, then the differential amount between imported coal and domestic coal should be borne by Government of India i.e. Rs. 440 crores per annum. Therefore, with a view to reducing the freight coast on coal, the allocation of coal from collieries of WCL would be appropriate and in the interest of the sector as a whole. This would result in reduction in transportation cost which in turn would result in enormous savings in generation cost. Government of India may kindly ensure that coal allocation to Gujarat for power generation, is made from mines nearest to the State preferably from the mines from Western Coal Fields only.