

'Adequate coal stocks on hand, power crisis will not recur'

Over 20 mt of coal imported since April, 15 mt consumed, says Power Secretary

OUR BUREAU

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Assuring that the country will not face a repeat of the power crisis of October 2021, Union Power Secretary Alok Kumar on Thursday said that coal supply at power plants is satisfactory.

He added that the government imported 20 million tonnes of coal, of which around 15 mt has been utilised by power plants.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the INSIGHT 2022 conference on green mobility, Kumar said that timely intervention by the Power Ministry has ensured that the country will not face power crisis in the October-December festival sea-

son. India's power demand, which usually peaks in April-June, comes down during the monsoon months (June-September), but rises again during the festival season.

Need-based imports

Asked whether more imports would be needed, the Secretary said, "Import will be need-based. We have to supply power, so if the need arises, we can do it. We have back-up plans in case the need arises."

Coal stocks with the utilities had dipped to 7.2 mt on October 8, 2021, sufficient for just four days' worth of coal burn, due to disruptions in supply caused by



Coal stocks with utilities dipped to 7.2 mt as of October 8, 2021, sufficient only for four days' worth of coal-burn

heavy rains and lower generation by imported coal-based utilities which stopped coal imports as prices hit a record-high.

A similar situation occurred in March 2022 as un-

usually-high temperatures led to an all-time-high power demand, which, coupled with stretched domestic coal supply, forced the Centre to direct gencos to import coal.

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■ No Power Crisis this Festive Season: Secy

NEW DELHI India will not face any power crisis during this festival season due to coal shortage at thermal plants as 20 million tonne of coal has already been imported so far, Union Power Secretary Alok Kumar said on Thursday. Last year around this time, the country faced power crisis due to coal shortages at thermal plants. This had prompted the Centre to take slew of measures to scale up supplies and manage the crisis in 2021. "It (power crisis due to coal shortage) is not going to happen this time (during festival season). We have already imported 20 million tonne of coal so far (this fiscal year) and we have used 15 million tonne out of this," Kumar told reporters on the sidelines of conference 'INSIGHT2022' on green mobility. Festival season, especially in North India, will begin with the onset of Navratri in the last week of September 2022.

■ 'Green Energy Expo to Bring ₹800 cr Investment for Biogas'

NEW DELHI Renewable Energy India Expo 2022 scheduled for later this month will bring in investment opportunities worth ₹800 crore for the biogas sector, the Indian Biogas Association (IBA) said on Thursday. IBA is an industry association comprising operators, manufacturers, and planners of biogas plants. Renewable Energy Expo (REI) is scheduled for September 28-30, 2022 at India Expo Centre, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. The bio-energy pavilion is supported by Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), Niti Aayog, Punjab and Maharashtra Energy Development Agency. The expo focuses on renewable energy (bio-energy, solar, and wind) and energy efficiency technologies including electric vehicles and battery storage. "We are expecting almost 15,000 footfalls with the renewed interest and MNRE's push towards the bio-energy sector. This is the reason we have opted for a separate pavilion for our exhibitors," A R Shukla, IBA President said in a statement.