Introduction of Coal

Why is coal so important to everyday life in India? Coal is the India’s most abundant, safe and secures fossil fuel - it is also clean and cost-effective

- Abundant - extensive reserves of coal are present in many states.
- Safe - coal is stable and hence the safest fossil fuel to transport, store and use.
- Secure - abundant reserves mean that coal users are guaranteed security of supply at competitive prices; hence electricity supplies for industrial and domestic use are assured.
- Clean - using current and new technologies, coal can be cleaned and burnt cleanly throughout India.
- Cost-effective - globally, coal is a competitive fuel for the generation of electricity, without which modern life would be virtually impossible. It is the major energy source for power generation worldwide.

Currently, some 63% of the electricity generated in India is produced from coal. India’s iron and steel industry also depends on the use of coal - it is the principal form of reluctant in the metallurgical industries.

The importance of other fossil fuels (oil and gas) and alternative energy sources (such as nuclear and renewable) cannot be ignored. Today, none of these alternatives offers a trouble-free, long-term economical source of energy. At current production levels, known coal reserves are forecast to last over 200 years - significantly longer than known reserves of oil or gas. However, all fossil fuel reserves are finite - they need to be used as efficiently as commercially possible in order to conserve valuable resources.

Renewable energy sources, such as hydro, wind, solar, biomass, wave and tidal do provide alternative sources for power generation. However, all face problems including economic viability and environmental acceptability - with the exception of hydro, none will offer meaningful energy supplies for several decades.
As the global population grows and as living standards improve in the developing world, international demand for energy increases, often at a dramatic rate. Coal is the most abundant, widely distributed, safe and economical fossil fuel available to meet this escalating energy demand.

Coal is a non-renewable fossil solid fuel formed by a series of natural geo-chemical processes for the plant remains accumulated together with other sediments. It is a combustible brown to black sedimentary rock, composed of heterogeneous components.