

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4390
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2000
COAL SCANDAL
DADICHILUKA VEERA GOURI SANKARA RAO

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether coal worth crores of rupees meant for three power plants in Ropar, Bhatinda and Mohabhat Lehra in Punjab has been found missing;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have inquired into the matter and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the action taken to check such scams in future and punish the guilty officials involved therein?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER(SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) to (d) : As per the Punjab State Electricity Board (PSEB), the quantity of coal assessed short in lac metric tonnes at Ropar, Bhatinda and Mohabhat Lehra is as under:

Year	Ropar	Bhatinda	Lehra	Mohabhat
1997-1998	3.8	1.05	-	
1998-1999	1.84	0.79	-	
1999-2000	2.05	0.69	0.85	
2000-2001	0.37	0.2	0.21	

Upto 6, 2000

The likely reasons for this shortage are:

- (i) Weigh-bridge errors at loading end.
- (ii) Pilferage en-route from Bihar to Punjab.
- (iii) Loss of moisture en-route.

An Enquiry Committee has been set up by the PSEB at the direction of the Govt. of Punjab to quantify shortages on account of each factors and also to suggest measures for minimizing the shortages.