

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:141
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2005
PILFERAGE OF COAL
Dhanaraju Dr. K.;Satheedevi Smt. P.

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there is a large scale pilferage of coal in the Public Sector Coal Companies due to the mafia operations and other illegal activities;
- (b) if so, the estimated loss incurred by these companies during the last three years, company wise and mine-wise;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any enquiry in this regard;
- (d) if so, the details of the findings;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) whether any comprehensive scheme/plan has been formulated by the Government to check these illegal activities;
- (g) if so, the details thereof; and
- (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL & MINES (Dr. DASARI NARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (h): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN THE REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (H) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 141 FOR ANSWER ON 3.8.2005.

(a) & (b): Government is aware of the pilferage of coal but it is not possible to exactly specify the loss on this count due to the nature of illegal operations. However, raids are conducted by security personnel of the coal companies themselves as well as with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Governments. FIRs are lodged with the police and action is initiated by the local law and order authorities. The details of FIRs lodged, quantities recovered and its approximate value during last three years in the subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited are as under:

2002-2003

Company	FIRs lodged	Arrests Made	Qty. recovered	App. Value
	(te)	(Rs. Lakh)		

ECL	804	174	14,140.00	113.00
BCCL	47	67	71.69	0.98
CCL	13	15	704.50	7.00
NCL	0	0	0	0
WCL	20	17	277.21	2.23
SECL	7	13	65.48	0.55
MCL	4	1	34.60	0.16
NEC	40	3	49.70	0.53

Total 935 290 15,343.18 124.45

2003-2004

Company FIRs lodged Arrests Made Qty. recovered App. Value
(te) (Rs. Lakh)

ECL	698	190	11,912.00	95.46
BCCL	155	53	5223.23	54.86
CCL	11	16	1,200.00	12.06
NCL	1	1	9.00	0.07
WCL	18	17	169.39	1.66
SECL	17	24	139.50	1.54
MCL	3	4	31.00	0.15
NEC	0	0	0	0

Total 903 305 18,684.12 165.80

2004-2005

Company FIRs lodged Arrests Made Qty. recovered App. Value
(te) (Rs. Lakh)

ECL	408	381	11,048.12	88.39
BCCL	374	108	2770.64	38.32
CCL	29	21	2263.00	22.98
NCL	0	0	0	0
WCL	5	12	20.80	0.21
SECL	51	37	730.71	7.55
MCL	22	25	196.72	1.23
NEC	39	0	137.57	1.70

Total 928 584 17,167.56 160.38

(c) to (h) The Government and the coal companies are seized of the problems and have taken the following steps to deal with them:

1. Specific complaints regarding pilferage of coal are got investigated by the Vigilance Wings of CIL and its subsidiaries. The systems improvement measures suggested by the Vigilance are implemented. Where outside parties are allegedly involved, the CBI is also asked to investigate the allegations.

2. State governments of the coal bearing states have been requested to take steps to prevent illegal mining in their areas.

3. Law and order is a State subject, hence the coal companies maintain close liaison with the State authorities.

4. The following steps are being taken by subsidiary companies of CIL to prevent theft/pilferage of coal:

i) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.

ii) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.

iii) Construction of watch-towers and providing lighting arrangements around the coal stacking area.

iv) Erection of barbed-wire/wall fencing around pithead depots, static security manning including deployment of armed guards during the night hours.

v) Escorting of loaded rakes upto railway weighbridges by armed guards and joint patrolling with Railway Protection Force (RPF) in the long railway

tracks which are prone to wagon looting.

vi) Sealing of illegal mining spots.

vii) Stringent action against transport vehicles `caught in the act of theft or pilferage.

viii) Engagement of lady security guards for preventing women and children indulging in theft/pilferage of coal, strengthening of the security discipline by reassessing the requirement of security personnel, horizontal movement of executives with aptitude for security work and inducting qualified security personnel at junior, middle and senior levels.

ix) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training to new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security set up.

5. The matter is brought to the notice of highest authorities in the State government concerned from time to time.