

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL AND MINES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1235
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2001
REMOVAL OF COAL MAFIA
ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of coal mafia syndicates are running parallel administration in the coal belts in Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details of steps taken by the Government to check such parallel administration by coal mafias;
- (c) whether the officials of Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries are having close links with coal mafias and providing all necessary help to them;
- (d) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (e) the concrete steps taken to remove these coal mafias?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a): The Government is not aware of existence of large number of coal mafia syndicates. However, whenever reports of any irregularities are received, the Coal Companies take corrective measures promptly.

(b): The measures taken by the Coal Companies to check the irregularities are as follows:

i.) Specific cases of any irregularity are investigated by the Vigilance Departments of CIL and its subsidiaries. Appropriate departmental proceedings are initiated and penalties imposed on officials, where charges of irregularities are established;

ii.) The CBI also initiates suo moto inquiries where cases of grave irregularities come to their notice. Based on their findings, either prosecution is launched or departmental proceedings are initiated;

iii.) A drive has been launched, with the help of the concerned State Governments, to verify the antecedents of linked consumers in the non-core sector sponsored by State Governments;

iv.) Steps have been initiated to streamline the functioning of ex-servicemen transport companies engaged in coal transportation;

v.) Measures are being devised in consultation with the State Authorities to prevent misuse or multiple use of Delivery Orders.

(c) & (d): There is no specific information of any official of Coal India Limited having close links with coal mafias.

(e): The following steps are continuously taken by the Coal Companies to prevent coal mafia and its activities:

(i) Intensive patrolling by the Central Industrial Security Force and security personnel of coal companies;

(ii) Close liaison with the State/district authorities;

(iii) Raids by CISF and local police on illegal coal depots;

(iv) Surprise checks/raids by security personnel;

(v) Handing over of miscreants to the police and lodging of FIRs.

