

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:607  
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2002  
COAL MAFIAS  
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB

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

- (a) whether the Government are aware that coal mafias are demanding lakhs of rupees per railway rake from the consumers; and  
(b) if so, the steps taken to curb this menace by removing the coal mafias?

**Answer**

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

(a) & (b) CIL and its subsidiary companies have no information on date regarding coal mafia's demanding lakhs of rupees per railway rake, from the consumers. However, several measures, as below, are taken by the coal companies to check the irregularities: -

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.

vi. Escorting of loaded rakes upto railway weighbridges by armed guards and joint patrolling with Railway Protection Force in the long railway tracks which are prone to wagon looting.

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

The following additional steps are also continuously being taken by the Coal Companies to check malpractices:

(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.

