

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
COAL  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6943  
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2005  
COAL WAGE AGREEMENT  
Ahir Shri Hansraj Gangaram

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

- (a) whether the delay is being made in the implementation of 7th National Coal Wage Agreement though it became due w.e.f. 01.07.2004;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the loss suffered by coal sector in terms of coal production and the finance consequent upon the strike by labour organization of coal sector because of delay in the implementation of agreement;
- (d) whether the Government has fixed any time limit to settle the problem of 7th wage agreement; and
- (e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for expeditious settlement of wage agreement?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO):

(a & b) The delay in constitution of Joint Bi-partite Committee for Coal Industry (JBCCI) was on account of reluctance of Private Captive mining companies to participate in the negotiations. Delay in consequent wage agreement was on account of disagreement between Management and Unions on policy issues like 100% DA neutralization, extension of wage agreement to sick companies etc. which required a decision at Government level.

(c): Bhartya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) called for strike from 29-11-2004 to 01-12-2004. During this period against a normal production of 10 lakh tones per day preceding the strike, production during strike averaged at 9 lakh tones per day. In financial terms the loss was Rs.22.76 crores.

In Singareni Collieries Company Limited strike was observed by five Left-oriented Trade Unions, during 25th - 27th April, 2005 over a charter of nine common demands including immediate settlement of the 7th Wage Agreement. The loss of production of coal on account of the above strike was 83,450 tonnes. In financial terms the loss was Rs.8.34 crores.

(d & e): Group of Ministers (GoM) under the Chairmanship of Minister of Defence was constituted on 16-11-2004 to look into the larger issues concerning the ongoing wage negotiation in best interest of industry, labour and national economy. The GoM heard the views of management and Trade Unions. It also requested Minister of State for Coal & Mines to hold separate discussions with the Unions. Accordingly, a meeting was held on 3-5-2005 in which a broad consensus was reached. The wage agreement is likely to be signed shortly.