

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:734

ANSWERED ON:21.11.2007

FUNDS COLLECTED FROM COAL INDIA LIMITED EMPLOYEES FOR PRIME MINISTER'S RELIEF FUND

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Bhakta Shri Manoranjan;Dubey Shri Chandra Shekhar;Mondal Shri Abu Ayes;Patil Shri Balasaheb Vikhe;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the irregularity in the funds collected by Coal India Limited (CIL) for PM's Relief Fund over the past few years for victims of the Tsunami and other calamities has come to the light recently as reported in The Hindu dated October 24, 2007;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has conducted any inquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NAARAYANA RAO)

(a) to (d) In the news item published in The Hindu dated October 24, 2007, Chairman, Coal India Limited (CIL) has denied any irregularity in the funds collected by his company and its subsidiaries for the Prime Minister's Relief Fund over the last few years for victims of the Tsunami, the Orissa Cyclone, the Gujarat earthquake and for the Kargil war victims. In the news item, two Central Trade unions - the Indian National Trade Union Congress and the Centre of Indian Trade Unions have also expressed their views regarding the issue of allegations of diversion funds collected from the workers. However, Chairman, CIL has admitted the delay in depositing a part of the funds in the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

During the last eight years, the employees of Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries have contributed from out of their wages Rs.48.06 crores towards relief assistance following the Kargil war, Tsunami, earthquakes in Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir and floods in Orissa. CIL has deposited Rs.37.08 crores in the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) and National Defence Fund (NDF). An amount of Rs.1.35 crore was deposited in the Chief Minister's Relief Fund of the States of West Bengal, Bihar and Himachal Pradesh and Rs.3.36 crores was spent on purchase of relief material for Orissa flood victims. An amount of Rs.7.34 crores has been subsequently deposited by the CIL in PMNRF and NDF. Accordingly, an amount of Rs.49.13 crores has been accounted for including Rs.1.07 crore that was contributed from the internal resources of the Coal companies.

However, there has been a delay in depositing part of the funds collected in PMNRF besides depositing some funds in the Chief Minister's Relief Fund of some States and direct spending. The Ministry of Coal has ordered an enquiry in this regard.