

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3498

ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004

FREIGHT SCAM

Ahmad Shri Ateeq;Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Deshmukh Shri Subhash Sureshchandra;Mahajan Shri Y.G.;Manoj Kumar Shri ;Mehta Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad;Prasad Shri Hari Kewal;Reddy Shri S.P.Y.;Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the incidents of blackmarketing, theft, mafia, corruption, supply of sub- standard coal etc. in coal companies/subsidiaries/depot;
- (b) if so, the action taken in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has initiated any inquiry;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check the aforesaid incidents?

Answer

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

(a) to (e): In general there are no complaints of black marketing of coal supplied to core sector industries like power utilities, steel, cement industries. Core sector linkages are operated through a regime of Fuel Supply Agreements. Coal to non-core sector consumers is released based on the past linkages and sponsorship by State Governments and also under Open Sales Scheme as and when surplus coal is available.

The non-core sector linkages are verified from time to time by the Vigilance Departments of State Governments and vigilance wings of coal companies and as and when units were found to be closed or not working, the coal linkages have been cancelled. On receipt of complaints of misuse of coal by some linked consumers in the non-core sector, an intensive verification has recently been taken up by the coal companies.