

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:21

ANSWERED ON:23.11.2011

ILLEGAL MINING

Deshmukh Shri K. D.;Singh Shri Bhola

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether cases of illegal mining, black marketing, theft, pilferage and irregularities in transportation of coal have been reported in various subsidiaries of Coal India Limited during the last three years and the current year;
- (b) if so, the details of the revenue loss incurred as a result thereof, year-wise, subsidiary-wise and State-wise;
- (c) whether connivance of some security personnel and officials of the various coal companies has been reported in certain cases;
- (d) if so, the details thereof, subsidiary-wise and State-wise and Action taken against them; and
- (e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check these cases?

Answer

MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT AS MENTIONED IN ANSWER TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.12 FOR ANSWER ON 23.11.2011
ASKED BY DR. BHOLA SINGH AND SHRI K.D. DESHMUKH REGARDING ILLEGAL MINING

(a) & (b) : illegal mining, black marketing, theft, pilferage and irregularities in transportation etc. of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely in old and abandoned mines, small and isolated patches, outcrop areas and areas which are not in the lease hold areas of public sector coal companies.. As such, it is not possible to specify the exact quantum of coal taken out or stolen and losses incurred on account of illegal mining, black marketing, theft, pilferage and irregularities in transportation of coal. Being a law and order issue, it is the responsibility of State/District administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb this activity of illegal mining.

However, during the raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with the authorities dealing with law and order of the concerned State Governments, the quantity of coal recovered and its approximate value during last three years and the current year are given in the annexure.

(c) & (d) : As reported by CIL there is no information about the connivance of the officials in the above activities.

(e) Since law and order is a State subject, primarily it is the responsibility of the concerned State/District administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb illegal mining and take follow up action to convict the persons responsible for such illegal act. However, the steps taken by the Government coal companies to prevent illegal mining are :

- i) Rat holes created by illegal mining are dozed off and filled up with stone and debris wherever possible.
- ii) Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.
- iii) Regular raids/checks being conducted by security personnel and static security pickets including armed guards during the night hours are being deployed at pithead depots.
- iv) Surprise raids/checks being conducted jointly by security personnel and law and order authorities of the concerned State Government.
- v) Fencing is constructed at the various illegal mining sites along with displaying of signboards mentioning "Dangerous and Prohibited Place."
- vi) Dumping of the overburden is done on the outcrop zones, which are not required to be mined.
- vii) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.

viii) Installation of check-posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.

ix) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security set up.

(x) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State authorities.

(xi) Committee/task forces has been constituted at different level (block level, sub-divisional level,district level, State level) at some of the subsidiaries of CIL to monitor different aspects of illegal mining.

The steps taken by coal companies to prevent theft / pilferage are:

1) Check Posts have been established at the vulnerable points.

2) Wall fencing,light arrangements and deployment of armed guards round the clock has been done around the coal dumping yard.

3) Regular patrolling is conducted in and around the mine including OB dumps.

4) Armed Guards have been deployed at Railway sidings.

5) Inter-action and liaison with District officials at regular intervals and holding meeting with DC & District Administration, every month.

6) Challans for coal transportation by trucks outside the district are being issued after fixing hologram and putting signatures of authorized officials of CISF to check pilferage.

7) Regular FIRs are lodged by the Management of the collieries and CISF with local Thana against the pilferage/theft of coal. A close watch on the activities of criminals is being maintained by CISF.

8) Management has been taking action for filling/dozing/sealing/blasting of the old/abandoned exposed coalfaces in phased manner.