

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

TWENTY SIXTH REPORT

MINISTRY OF COAL



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

March, 2007/Phalguna, 1928 (Saka)

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(Presented to Lok Sabha on 07.05.2007)



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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CB-1. No. 335 Vol. XXVI

Price: Rs. 31.00

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Published under Rule 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Eleventh Edition) and Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, Minto Road, New Delhi-110 002.

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COMPOSITION OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Shri Prabhunath Singh — *Chairman*

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2. Shri Shingada Damodar Barku
3. Shri Nandkumar Singh Chauhan
4. Shri N.S.V. Chitthan
5. Shri Anant Gangaram Geete
6. Shri Mohan Jena
7. Shri Wangyuh W. Konyak
8. Shri C. Kuppusami
9. Adv. Suresh Kurup
10. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
11. Kunwar Jitin Prasada
12. Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan
13. Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia
14. Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava
15. Shri Paras Nath Yadav

SECRETARIAT

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|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Shri M. Rajagopalan Nair | — | <i>Additional Secretary</i> |
| 2. Shri J.P. Sharma | — | <i>Joint Secretary</i> |
| 3. Shri A.K. Singh | — | <i>Director</i> |
| 4. Shri U.B.S. Negi | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |
| 5. Shri H.R. Kamboj | — | <i>Deputy Secretary-II</i> |

TWENTY SIXTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

INTRODUCTION

I, the Chairman, Committee on Petitions, having been authorised by the Committee to present the Report on their behalf, present this Twenty Sixth Report (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee to the House on the representation from Sh. B.K. Singh, General Secretary, Koyala Khadan Shikshak Morcha and forwarded by Sh. George Fernandes, M.P. requesting to grant higher pay scales to the teachers of Colliery Schools.

2. The Committee considered and adopted the draft Twenty Sixth Report at their sitting held on 20th March, 2007.

3. The observations/recommendations of the Committee on the above matters have been included in the Report.

NEW DELHI;
20 March, 2007
29 Phalguna, 1928(Saka)

PRABHUNATH SINGH,
Chairman,
Committee on Petitions.

REPORT

REPRESENTATION FROM PRIVATELY MANAGED SCHOOL TEACHERS REQUESTING FOR PARITY OF PAY SCALES WITH STATE/CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TEACHERS

1. Shri George Fernandes, M.P. on 26.07.2005 forwarded to the Committee on Petitions a representation signed by Shri B.K. Singh, General Secretary, Koyala Khadan Shikshak Morcha and others requesting to pay salary to the teachers of colliery schools at par with Central/State Government teachers. The petitioner, in his representation, submitted that:—

- (i) The colliery school teachers are being paid a paltry sum of Rs. 2500/- as salary per month in these hard days, as a result of which they have been forced to live like beggars on account of their exploitation and denial of their right to equal pay for equal work. The salary being paid to these teachers does not even conform to the minimum wages paid to a labour;
- (ii) About 400 colliery schools were established before nationalization of coal industry in view of the background of coal industry and illiteracy amongst the employees. The Coal India Limited decided way back in 1983, to improve the educational facilities for the children of the employees by creating one primary school in each colliery, one middle school for each 2/3 collieries and one High School in each area. In 1993, Coal India Limited principally agreed to improve the standard of the colliery schools by fixing higher scale of pay for teachers, but nothing positive was done in this regard. To the contrary, in 1998, the Coal India Limited illegally and unjustifiably dissolved the Managing Committees, which were looking after the colliery schools, with a malafide intention to wipe off these schools and to systematically push commercial institutions in the colliery areas in their place; and
- (iii) The recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Coal Mining Industry equating the teachers of colliery schools to the clerks of the colliery by placing them in 'Grade G' were also not considered and huge annual additional grants to the tune of Rupee 28 crore meant to upgrade status of colliery school teachers was illegally and malafidely being diverted for years. The subsequent deliberations and recommendations of the Joint Bipartite Committee for the Coal Industry (National Coal Wage Agreement—III, IV & V) to give higher scales of pay to the colliery school teachers at par with the Government Schools was also not implemented. In spite of the efforts and agitation since long, nothing has been done by the Government for grant of reasonable pay scales to the teachers of colliery schools. As a result, these teachers are forced to live like beggars and the education to deprived wards of poor employees are adversely suffering.

The petitioner, therefore, requested that reasonable salary may be paid to the colliery school teachers and non-teaching staff at par with the Central Government/ State Government/Railway/SAIL/DVC school teachers at the earliest.

2. The Committee under Direction 95 A of Directions by the Speaker took up the representation for examination. Accordingly, the above representation was forwarded to the Ministry of Coal on 04.08.2005 requesting them to forward their comments on the issues raised in the representation.

3. On the directions of the Committee, the Ministry of Coal *vide* their communication dated 18.08.2005 and 14.02.2006, forwarded their comments giving the background of the case as well as legal development, which is reproduced below:—

"There are about 464 privately managed schools in various subsidiaries of CIL which are partially funded through grant-in-aid given by the PSUs. Teachers of these privately managed school under the umbralla of Koyala Khadan Shikshak Morcha have been asking for the status of employees of Coal companies and demanding salaries at par with teachers of State Government. However Coal India and Ministry of Coal have been clarifying that no employer-employee relationship existed between the PSUs and such other teachers of private schools.

Schools in CIL fall in two broad categories of (a) Project Schools and (b) Privately managed schools. It was envisaged that a PSU will provide infrastructure, furniture etc. to the project schools and will bear all the running costs incurred over and above the fees and other charges taken by such schools. As regards other privately managed schools, a PSU gives some form of grant-in-aid as a means of financial assistance purely as a welfare measure so as to give easy access to the basic education for children of its employees. This under no circumstances should be construed to imply that these PSUs are running departmental schools and employing any teachers.

Over the years a phenomenon has been observed which is typical to ECL, BCCL and CCL which operate in Jharkhand and West Bengal that there is mushrooming of small schools which open up on the premises or land owned by these companies with the professed objective of providing schooling to children of coal miners. Initially, they only request the use of some shed or structure but gradually their demands increased and they start seeking absorption in the PSU and payment of salaries at par with State Government teachers.

Quantum of Grants being given to these schools has been enhanced from time to time. Recently Coal Companies increased grants from Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 2500/- per month per teacher. The grant-in-aid is given as a matter of welfare measure though the coal companies are not under obligation to do so. Further education is a subject falling in the jurisdiction of the State Government. The petitioners may have to approach the State Government for recognition and grants since there is no employer-employee relationship between the coal companies and the teachers working in these schools."

About the Legal Developments, the Ministry replied that:—

"The Hon'ble Ranchi High Court in their judgement dated 10.09.2002 in respect of CWJC No. 2226 of 2000 directed BCCL to pay teachers of schools aided by them a salary at par with equivalent to clerical grade in BCCL.

Aggrieved by the above order, BCCL filed an appeal and the Ranchi High Court *vide* its order dated 12.12.2002 stayed its earlier order passed in CWJC No. 2226 of 2000 R. Subsequently, the matter was heard on 23.01.2003 and the court directed formation of a committee comprising representatives of BCCL, State of Jharkhand and Director, Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad to look into the entire gamut of problems of school teachers in the context of BCCL. Among other things, the court also directed the committee to scrutinize the functioning of schools and to examine the number of schools and the need of workforce so as to make the schools financially viable. The committee has submitted its report on 5.11.2003 and Ranchi High Court in its order dated 2st January, 2004 dismissed petition and upheld the appeal filed by BCCL.

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In a similar writ petition filed by some teachers working in a privately managed school functioning in the command area of Mahanadi Coalfield Limited Hon'ble Supreme Court in its order dated 3.12.1999 directed Government of Orissa to take over the school and absolved MCL from the onus of taking over the school. The Supreme Court merely acknowledged the offer of MCL to continue giving some grant-in-aid to the said school."

4. The Committee enquired from the Ministry of Coal about the grievances of the school teachers and whether the amount paid to the school teachers was in accordance with the minimum wages Act. In their written reply, the Ministry stated as under:—

- "(A) Education is the subject of the concerned State Government. Coal India and its subsidiary companies are not mandated to run any educational institution. The subsidiaries of CIL are funding some schools purely as a welfare measure so as to give easy access to the basic education for children of the employees in the Coal fields areas.
- (B) These schools have been established and are being run and administered by their own rules and regulations with their own resources. There is no employer and employee relationship between the Management of Coal India/Subsidiary companies and such other teachers/non-teaching staff of private managed schools which has been confirmed in the order of Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court of Ranchi dated 21.01.2004. Most of the schools are not recognised by the State Government. Most of the teachers of the said schools are inadequately qualified and not trained for teaching work. The members of the Committee constituted in terms of Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court's order dated 23.01.2003 felt that the teaching standard in such schools leaves much to be desired. Therefore, the question of payment of wages or fixing higher scale of pay for teachers/non-teaching staff does not arise.

- (C) In spite of the above facts, the Management of Coal companies on sympathetic grounds have increased the quantum of grant-in-aid from time to time. For example ECL had increased grant-in-aid for old teachers from Rs. 100/- to Rs. 600/- and Rs. 900/- and for new teachers from Rs. 300/- to Rs. 600/-. BCCL also increased the grant-in-aid from Rs. 500/- to Rs. 750/- and Rs. 850/- per month as per teacher to primary school and from Rs. 1050/- to Rs. 1200/- per month per teacher for middle and high school. CCL had also increased the grant-in-aid from Rs. 100/- to Rs. 150/- to Rs. 250/- and again to Rs. 400/- per month per teacher. The above grants further revised as per the direction of the Ministry which are as follows:—
- (i) Such measure was made in July 2001 when the Ministry of Coal had directed ECL, BCCL and CCL to double the quantum of grant-in-aid to privately managed schools so that every teacher may get a minimum of Rs. 2000/- per month *w.e.f.* July 2001. This issue was discussed on 25.06.2001 in a meeting held at the residence of Shri George Fernandes, the then Defence Minister attended by MOS and Hon'ble Finance Minister.
 - (ii) Further, in February 2004 Ministry of Coal directed Coal India Limited, that grant-in-aid to Privately Managed Schools being supported by ECL, BCCL and CCL may be enhanced from Rs. 2000/- per month per teacher to Rs. 2500/- per month per teacher on the existing teachers/schools who are getting grant-in-aid as on date. Copy enclosed for ready reference.
- (D) CCL—no school in the coalfield areas is either run or managed by CCL. Management of such school/committee of the schools manages working of school, appointment and payment of salary to teachers and staff by themselves and in that process CCL is not involved. However, CCL is only providing grant-in-aid to privately managed schools which is utilized for payment of salary to their teachers.
- (E) Thus the suggestion of various committees and directions given by the Ministry of Coal have been abided by the Coal companies from time to time and accordingly necessary actions have been taken.

Since the teachers of private committee managed schools are not the employees of CIL, the question of equal pay at par with CIL employees or any minimum wages does not arise. Financial assistance is only being given as a token of help. The amount being paid by the coal companies is not as salary but only recurring grant. Salaries are paid by respective managements of the schools as per their scales of pay.

In view of the above it is not a fact that Coal India Limited and its subsidiary companies have forced the teachers/non-teaching staffs to live like beggars on account of their exploitation and denial of their right to equal pay for equal work."

5. The Committee desired to know how the privately managed schools were different from the project schools. Further, facilities were extended to the project schools but the same were denied to privately managed schools. Responding in this regard, the Ministry replied as under:—

"Project Schools are standard schools affiliated to CBSE and the education imparted by these schools to the wards of employees has high standard. Private Committee Schools have mushroomed on their own. The Management of the Company had never taken initiative in opening Private Committee Managed Schools. With a view to improve educational standard and imparting quality education for the employees wards in the coalfields the authorities of the Project Schools namely Central School, DAV Public School, Delhi Public School and Vidyavikash Samity School (Saraswati Vidyamandir) were requested to establish their schools in different areas of ECL, BCCL and CCL as a part of Welfare Activities. These Project Schools would not have otherwise established their branches without the support from Coal India and its subsidiaries 22 fully financed Projects Schools and other 16 Projects Schools which are given only infrastructure support (no recurring grant given) are at present operating in the areas of ECL, BCCL and CCL. It is pertinent to mention that these Project Schools have qualified teachers including their affiliation with appropriate Board like CBSE. The affiliation of the Board lays down certain mandatory requirements which have to be fulfilled in terms of providing infrastructure and grant etc. to ensure the smooth operation of the schools."

6. The Committee desired to know whether the State Education Board had recognized the privately managed schools. In their written reply, the Ministry stated as under:—

ECL—None of the 162 privately managed schools which impart education at Primary, Middle and High School level, is recognized by the State Education Board (SEB).

BCCL—Out of the total of 89 privately managed schools, which impart education at Primary, Middle and High School level only 4 or 5 are recognized by SEB.

CCL—Out of the total of 47 Privately managed schools which impart education at Primary, Middle and High School level only 06 are recognized by SEB."

7. On being asked to state about the primary objectives of the company to set up privately managed schools in 1983 and whether these schools were controlled by the Managing Committee of the Company, the Ministry in their written reply stated as under:—

"As far as establishment of private committee managed school is concerned the Coal companies have no role whatsoever in this regard. In fact, these schools have been established and are being run & administered by their own managements as per their rules & regulations."

8. In reply to question about appointment of teachers in these schools and the authority competent to appoint teachers, the Ministry stated as follows:—

"These teachers are recruited/appointed by the Managing Committee of the concerned schools. The Management of ECL, BCCL and CCL have no role in the recruitment/appointment of these teachers."

9. About the grant-in-aid given to the privately managed schools at the time of their establishment and the purposes for such grant, the Ministry of Coal replied as under:—

"Status of grant-in-aid paid by ECL to privately managed schools"

Sl.No.	Year	Amount of grant-in-aid
1.	Initially in the year 1973-74 (79 schools with 330 teachers).	@Rs. 100/-per month per teacher.
2.	The said grant-in-aid further enhanced <i>w.e.f.</i> July 1991 as per decision taken in ECL Welfare Board meeting held on 17.07.1991.	@Rs. 600/- per month per teacher
3.	Further as per decision taken in ECL Welfare Board in the same meeting held on 17.07.1991 to include 88 new private Committee managed schools with 358 new teachers.	@Rs. 300/-per month per teacher.
4.	Further enhanced to new and old teachers respectively as per decision taken in ECL Welfare Board meeting held in September 1994.	New teachers from Rs. 300/- to Rs.600/- per month per teacher Old teachers from Rs. 600/- to Rs. 900/- per month per teacher
5.	Further as per directives from Ministry <i>w.e.f.</i> July 2001 (688 teachers).	@ Rs. 2000/- per month per teacher (annually liability for total 688 teachers was Rs. 1,65,12,000/- at that time).

Inspection Report: ECL Welfare sub-Committee constituted with the representative of recognized trade union and management of ECL inspected all the 167 private committee managed schools receiving recurring grant from ECL and during inspection it was found that 5 schools and 78 teachers are non-functional. The number of schools now getting recurring grant is 162 with 610 teachers at present compared to 167 nos. of schools with 688 teachers prior to the inspection by the Committee.

Sl.No.	Year	Amount of grant-in-aid
6.	Further recurring grant enhanced to 610 teachers of 162 privately managed schools w.e.f. March, 2004	From Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 2500/- per month per teacher (annually liability is Rs. 1.83 crs.)

Status of grant-in-aid paid by BCCL to privately managed schools

Sl.No.	Year	Amount of grant-in-aid
1.	Upto 1988-89	@ Rs. 500/- per month per teacher.
2.	1989-90 to 1990-91	@ Rs. 750/- per month per teacher for primary schools and @ Rs. 1050/- per month per teacher for middle and high school.
3.	1991-92 to June 2001	@ Rs. 850/- per month per teacher for primary school and @ Rs. 1200/- per month per teacher for middle and high school.
4.	From July 2001 to Feb. 2004	@ Rs. 2000/- per month per teacher.
5.	From March 2004 till date	@ Rs. 2500/- per month per teacher.

Status of grant-in-aid paid by CCL to privately managed schools

Initially, privately managed schools were given grant on the basis of Rs. 100 per month per teacher. Purpose of this grant is to help such schools for meeting various developmental expenditure with a view to upgrade standard of education. Since the grant-in-aid was increased from time to time Rs. 100 to Rs.150 to Rs.250 and again Rs.400 to Rs. 800 in the year 2001. Subsequently it has been revised to Rs. 1000 from the financial year 2004-05 and the same is continuing."

10. When asked to state about the mechanism to ensure that colliery teachers are actually paid a sum of Rs. 2500/-p.m., the Ministry in their written reply stated that:—

"It is not a fact that teachers working in privately managed schools are colliery teachers. ECL Welfare Board consisting of the union representatives and the management representatives of ECL decided in its meeting held on

22.03.1991 that the teachers of the schools who were in existence in the year 1985-86 will get annual grant from ECL. Accordingly, 610 teachers of 162 Privately Managed Schools are getting recurring grant from ECL. The said recurring grant has been enhanced to Rs. 2500/- (Rupees two thousand five hundred only) per teacher per month with effect from March 2004.

In BCCL 348 teachers of Private Committee Managed Schools are getting financial assistance @ Rs. 2500/- per month *w.e.f.* March 2004. Apart from above 4 schools with 26 teachers are also getting consolidated financial assistance.

CCL—CCL has made request to such school management to ensure payment of salary to the teachers to the tune of Rs. 2500/- per month with the help of financial assistance provided by CCL and other resources of the school."

11. The Committee desired to know whether the Ministry had conducted any survey to justify continuance of grant-in-aid to privately managed schools. In reply, the Ministry stated as under:—

"The outcome of such survey justifies the financial assistance as these schools impart quality education in ECL, BCCL and CCL."

12. In his representation, the petitioner had stated that Coal India Limited illegally and unjustifiably dissolved the Managing Committee, which were looking after the Colliery Schools. Replying to that, the Ministry of Coal stated as under:—

"ECL had no Managing Committee in any of the Private Schools since beginning. Forming of Managing Committee is purely a matter of Schools themselves and ECL did not, in any way, interfere in the said matter. But, the Managing Committees of the Private Committee Managed Schools used to be constituted with one nominated representative of the Company. As ECL has not employer-employee relation with these Private Committee Managed Schools such nomination ceased to exist. These private committee managed schools adopted undue pressure, tactics from all corners for placing teachers in regular scale and impart benefit at par with regular employees of BCCL, Management considered it necessary to discontinue the participation of the management in the managing committee. Such decision was taken after taking into confidence the members of the Welfare Board comprising of representatives of Central Trade Unions.

In CCL, since the Private Committee Managed Schools are being run and Managed by the concerned Managing Committee of Schools CCL has no link or responsibility for managing or run such schools."

13. About managing the affairs of the colliery schools in the absence of Managing Committee, the Ministry of Coal stated that:—

"The Management of CIL and its subsidiary Companies have no official relationship with the Managing Committee of the Schools. Companies are extending financial assistance as a grant with no involvement in their affairs. In order to utilize the grants sanctioned by the Committee there is a Managing

Committee in each school formed by the Schools themselves. Recurring grant is released only on submission of Utilisation Certificate/Audit Report of the previous month/year for receiving grant of the following month/year. The Ministry have stated that schools in CIL fall in two broad categories of (a) Project Schools, and (b) Privately managed schools. It was envisaged that a PSU will provide infrastructure, furniture etc. to the project schools and will bear all the running costs incurred over and above the fees and other charges taken by such schools. As regards other privately managed schools, a PSU gives some form of grant-in-aid as a means of financial assistance purely as a welfare measure. This under no circumstance should be constructed to imply that these PSUs are running departmental schools and employing any teachers."

14. Replying about the amount allocated and spent on educational institution administered by the Company including privately managed schools over the last ten years, the Ministry stated as under:—

Year	Amount Spent	Amount Spent	Amount Spent
	(Rs. in Lakhs)	(Rs. in Lakhs)	(Rs. in Lakhs)
	ECL	BCCL	CCL
1996-97	97.49	215.79	270.00
1997-98	96.79	243.77	279.00
1998-99	139.69	232.64	357.00
1999-2000	116.10	281.70	358.00
2000-2001	66.03	113.67	385.00
2001-2002	145.06	237.07	470.00
2002-2003	200.80	162.18	275.00
2003-2004	195.01	142.78	280.00
2004-2005	271.97	197.05	315.00
2005-2006	189.80	321.12 (Prov.)	384.00
Total	1518.74	2147.77	3373.00

15. The petitioner, in his representation had stated that recommendations of the Central Wage Board for Coal Mining Industry (CWBCMI) for equating the teachers of colliery were also not implemented and grants were being diverted for years. The Committee desired to know whether the recommendations of CWBCMI were not applicable to the teachers of colliery schools. In their written reply, the Ministry stated as under:—

"Point No. 11, 12 and 13 are related with the recommendation of Central Wage Board for Coal Mining Industry and as such as not applicable for

Private Committee Managed School Teachers. Coal India Limited was not in existence when Central Wage Board for Coal Mining Industry made this recommendation. As per the recommendation of Central Wage Board for Coal Industry the teachers of colliery schools were given their respective grades. It is pertinent to mention that colliery teachers are different from the teachers of private committee managed schools. The colliery teachers were directly employed by the colliery owners before Nationalisation and such teachers were absorbed. As far as the teachers of private committee managed school are concerned, many of them were not in existence at the time of this agreement. They had never been employed/appointed but started the schools on their own.

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National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA)-III was meant exclusively for the employees for the coal PSUs and not all other teacher of schools operating in the vicinity of coal mines. There was no employer-employee relationship between the coal PSUs and that teachers of private schools."

16. About implementation of recommendations as per agreement of National Coal Wage Agreement, the Ministry replied as under:—

"--- There is no employer-employee relationship between the Management of CIL/subsidiary companies and teachers of Private Committee Managed schools. The concerned para of NCWA deals with the enhancement of recurring grant and not the salary of the Colliery School Teachers. The recommendations were implemented as per agreement of NCWA. At this stage it is necessary to draw a line between colliery teachers and the teachers of private committee managed schools. Colliery teachers were the employees of the then Coal Companies who later on were absorbed in BCCL on nationalisation whereas the teachers of private committee managed school have come into existence—afterwards on their own. The Ministry have stated that education is a subject matter in the jurisdiction of the State Governments. The petitioners may have to approach the State Government for recognition and grants since there is no employer-employee relationship between the coal companies and the teachers working in these schools."

17. The Coal Companies were providing all assistance viz. land, building, infrastructure and even reimbursing entire expenses over and above the income in terms of fees etc. to project schools whereas the same facilities were being denied to privately managed schools on the plea that education is a State matter and advising them to approach the State Government for grants. When the Committee sought clarifications about this, the Ministry replied as under:—

"The Ministry have stated that teachers of privately managed schools have filed writ petition before the High Court of Jharkhand *inter-alia* demanding parity with pay scale of teachers of Government of Jharkhand or clerks of BCCL and absorption in BCCL or taking over of all these schools by the State Government. High Court in its judgement dated 10-09-2002

directed BCCL to pay teachers of schools aided by them a salary at par with equivalent clerical grade in BCCL. However, aggrieved by the said order, BCCL filed an appeal and Ranchi High Court *vide* its order dated 12-12-2002 stayed its earlier order. Subsequently, Division Bench of Jharkhand High Court, passed an order on 21-01-2004 that the impugned judgement of the single judge was totally erroneous and set aside the judgement delivered on 10.09.2002 and the writ petition were dismissed. The aggrieved party, however, has filed SLP in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the above judgement. Future action will have to be guided by the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court."

18. Informing about the latest position of the case pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Ministry stated as under:—

"Status of ECL

S/Shri S.N. Mishra and 67 other teachers filed a writ-petition before the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court being W.P. No. 948 (W) of 2000 claiming their absorption in ECL and payment at par with others as per NCWA. The Hon'ble High Court passed an order dated 11.04.2000 directing ECL to decide the matter through a reasoned order. The then Director (Personnel), ECL on 01.08.2000 passed a reasoned order regretting their claim. The petitioners filed another Writ-Petition No. 19416 (W) of 2000 disputing the reasoned order etc. Management filed affidavit in opposition in January 2002 and the matter is pending at High Court for decision.

Status of BCCL

Some of the private committee managed schools had earlier filed three Writ Petitions before the Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi for their absorption in BCCL. Against the Order of Single Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi, three LPAs were filed by BCCL Management before the Division Bench of Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi *vide* LPA No. 548/2002, 552/2002 and 553/2002. BCCL succeeded in all the appeals. The relevant portion of the Order of the Hon'ble Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi is enclosed herewith. The case is admitted by Hon'ble Supreme Court and pending in Hon'ble Supreme Court for final hearing. However, no stay has been granted by the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the order of Jharkhand High Court, Ranchi."

19. Thereafter, the Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Coal on 31st March, 2006.

20. Informing about the status of the case, the representative of the Ministry of Coal, during evidence, stated as under:—

"Many schools are functioning in Coal Industry. There are some schools where we construct buildings for schools and in some schools we provide furniture. In some schools we provide infrastructure and also provide financial assistance for the school laboratories at times. We have no other

contribution other than this. There are some schools, which are run by private institutions where our children go for Study; we extend help to teachers in the form of salary. Initially we paid Rs. 200/- to teachers later Rs. 300 and then Rs. 800/- and then Rs. 1000/-. Today we are giving them Rs. 2400/— 2500/. At times it has been demanded that such teachers should be considered employees of Central Government as per NCWA and these teachers should be considered employees of Coal India. In this regard they have filed a case in the Jharkhand High court. A single Bench of Jharkhand High Court has directed that these teachers should be given the salary of a clerk. We had made an appeal against the order in a Double Bench. Double Bench has constituted a Committee, which comprises of the representatives of Government and Coal India. The said Committee presented its report to the Double Bench and on the basis of such report Hon'ble High Court set aside the order of single Bench and gave the order that education is a State subject. This is not the responsibility of BCCL to regularize them or to provide them salary as per National Coal Wages Agreement. The teachers have filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the order. The matter is sub-judice."

21. Elaborating further about the orders issued by the Court regarding payment of salary to the school teachers, the representative during evidence stated as under:—

"Order was that these teachers should be given the salary equivalent to a clerk and to include them on the roll of Coal India. That order was set aside. However as a goodwill gesture and since that comes in our area and our children were studying there, we have provided assistance so that there may not be any problem. There was no such order to provide them financial assistance. As desired by Hon'ble Member of Parliament we received the order from the Ministry of Coal to provide Rs. 2500. We have complied the order and still providing the financial assistance."

The witness further stated:—

"We don't have any teacher on our roll whether they belongs to DAV School or Central School and Delhi Public School. They are on the rolls of their organization. Since they have opened the school in our area on our request and we have committed to provide infrastructure facility as welfare activity but they are not on our roll even today. We reimburse them as part of the financial assistance, which comes from the tuition fee and apart from this we also compensate their need. We don't have any teacher on our roll."

22. Replying about the functioning of project schools, privately managed schools, and assistance being given to these schools, the witness, during evidence, stated as under:—

"That varies from school to school. It is different for Primary School, High School and College. We don't come under the sphere of the pay scale of DAV and Central School. But as their pay is revised, they have a different process of selection as per their standard of pay. There is again problem

that the teachers who are serving in privately managed school run by the private people have got all their relatives appointed as teachers in these schools. Out of them many schools are running for the name sake only. In some schools, there is only one class during the whole day. In some schools there are ten teachers but only five teachers are teaching. They do not have any selection procedure. But in established schools like DAV, Central Schools and DPS they have a certain process of induction. However, assistance has been given there on the understanding the values. But privately managed schools, are not following any such norms. Anyone who have passed Matriculation or B.A. examination, may become a teacher there. They are the source of employment generation but as a goodwill gesture we provide them assistance without asking their qualifications—whether they have done B.Ed. or not, they are trained or not. It is difficult for us to provide funds for the schools opened by some individuals and where teachers are appointed without our consent. We formulated a rule in 1985 when Mr. George Fernandes had requested the Ministry to provide assistance. That time also, there was a question as to which schools should be adopted and which private school need to be included in the list of school to considered for financial assistance. We had a Welfare Committee, which consists of representative of trade union and BCCL, ECL, and CCL. This Committee visited all the schools and those schools which were functioning and where students were studying were recommended for grant-in-aid. We didn't add any other school to it after that. There were complaints regarding the school is not working, there are no students and then we did the surprised visits wherein representative of trade unions also inspected themselves. We de-listed four-five schools after getting the complaint that the school is bogus, only board is there and there are no students and teachers. Therefore, those can't be compared with Central School and DAV schools."

23. The Committee desired to know about enhancement of the assistance to privately managed schools, the representative of the Ministry, during evidence, stated as under:—

"We can consider it but can't give it to everybody, we can formulate certain norms like if the school is good, percentage of children is good and result is ok etc. for consideration through separate welfare boards."

24. About association of the officers of the Ministry in managing the affairs of these schools, the witness, during evidence, stated as under:—

"So far as giving admission to the children of officer or appointing a relative, as teacher is concerned, I would like to say a thing to the hon'ble Member that nothing is wrong in giving admission to the children of officer or appointing a relative as teacher, if he is eligible. Whether the relative has committed any sin being appointed as teacher? Beside the children of officers there are other children also, who are studying in the school."

25. On being asked to state whether employees and office bearers were withdrawn from the management of the schools, the witness replied:—

"So, from year 2000 onwards, we have withdraw them when the litigation started."

26. About opening of these schools, the witness replied:—

"Sir, such schools are on private land. They have their own land and they have opened schools after constructing rooms. It is a different thing that at places schools have been constructed by making encroachment on colliery land but mostly these schools are being run on their own land."

The witness further added:—

"There is provision of schools within our infrastructure. We have invited organizations like DAV organization, Delhi Public School and Kendriya Vidyalaya to establish and run schools. They have opened their schools there and providing quality of education. As far as private schools are concerned as I said these are on private land. There may be one or two cases where trade unions have applied to run a school in an abandoned building on the ground that the building is not utilized for any other purpose and permission may be granted, otherwise all private schools are on private land."

27. The Committee further took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Coal on 19.09.2006.

28. When the Committee enquired about the follow up action taken by the Ministry in the matter, the representative of the Ministry of Coal, during evidence stated as under:—

"As you have stated that the matter was discussed in the last meeting. The Coal India Board has proposed that the amount of Rs. 2500/- should be increased to Rs. 3000/-."

The witness further added:—

"The matter will be decided at administrative level and we would take a decision within 10-15 days."

29. When the Committee desired to know whether the decision would be taken by the Ministry or by the Coal India, the representative, during evidence, stated as under:—

"Earlier when the salaries were increased, permission was taken from the Government. We would decide the matter within 10-15 days."

Observations/Recommendations

30. The Committee note that Koyala Khadan Shikshak Morcha Dhanbad, Jharkhand have represented for payment of reasonable salary to teachers to stop their exploitation so that they may be able to impart standard education to the children/wards of miners and colliery workers. It has been stated that the colliery teachers are being paid a paltry sum of Rs. 2500/- as salary per month whichever does not conform to the minimum wages paid to a labour. The petitioner has further

stated that the recommendations of Central Wage Board for Coal Mining Industry equating the teachers of colliery school to the clerk of the colliery was also not implemented by coal PSUs. The petitioner, therefore requested that reasonable salary may be paid to the colliery school teachers and non teaching staff equal to the teachers of Central Government/State Government.

31. The Committee note that prior to nationalisation of coal industry some private coal companies were running their own schools. The teachers in such schools were salaried employees of the private companies. Apart from these Schools, there were many other private Schools operating in and around the mines. When private companies were nationalised, the central PSUs absorbed all the staff of the private companies including some teachers. For considerable time, there remained ambiguity about the status/wages to be given to erstwhile teachers who had been absorbed. Since none of the Coal PSUs were running departmental Schools, such teachers had to be utilised as clerical staff. This issue was finally addressed under National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA) III which was valid from 01.01.1983 to 31.12.1986 wherein it was decided that such absorbed teachers would be given clerical grade of pay. The NCWA-III was meant for the employees of coal PSUs and not for other teachers of schools operating in the vicinity of coal mines.

32. The Committee further note that Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries, within the framework of NCWA-III, evolved an educational policy as a welfare measure to give easy access to the basic education for children of the employees in the coalfields areas. It envisaged a primary school near each colliery/colony, a middle/junior high school for every group of colonies and a high school at area level. Schools in CIL broadly fall in categories of (a) Project Schools; and (b) Privately Managed Schools. It was envisaged that a coal PSU would provide infrastructure, furniture etc. to the Project Schools and would bear all the running costs incurred over and above the fees and other charges taken by such Schools. These project Schools have qualified teachers including affiliation with appropriate board like CBSE. However, the teachers in such Schools were not employees of the concerned Coal Company.

33. The Committee note from the submission made by the Ministry that as regards other privately managed Schools, a coal PSU would give some form of grant-in-aid as a means of financial assistance purely as a welfare measure. These privately managed Schools were administered by their own rules and regulations with their own resources. The functioning of these privately managed Schools was assessed by Welfare Board, which includes representatives of Trade Unions and Management. The Welfare Boards recommend continuance or discontinuance, enhancement or reduction of grant-in-aid to be disbursed in each financial year.

34. The Committee further note that to ensure a minimum level of salaries to the teachers in privately managed Schools, the quantum of grants being given to these Schools have been enhanced from time to time. In February 2004 Ministry of Coal had directed the Coal India Ltd. that grant-in-aid to privately managed Schools being supported by ECL, BCCL, and CCL may be enhanced from Rs. 2000/- per month per teacher to Rs. 2500/- per month per teacher. At the same time the

Schools were allowed to charge or enhanced School fee and also to collect developmental charges, deposits, etc. to make them financially self-reliant. During the course of evidence before the Committee on 19.09.2006, the Ministry had assured that the grant-in-aid might be enhanced from Rs. 2500/- to Rs. 3000/- per month per teacher.

35. The Committee, have been informed that there are about 298 privately managed Schools, which are partially funded through grant-in-aid given by the concerned PSUs. The ECL, BCCL and CCL give grant-in-aid to 162, 89 and 47 Schools respectively. The Committee have been informed that the management of coal PSUs have no role in establishment of private Schools and appointment of teachers in such Schools. Further, according to the Ministry, the teachers of privately managed Schools are inadequately qualified and not trained for teaching profession. Also, the Committee of experts constituted on the directions of Jharkhand High Court felt that the teaching standard in such Schools leaves much to be desired.

36. The Committee noted that certain mandatory requirement have to be fulfilled in terms of infrastructure, facilities etc. to get affiliation from the State Education Board (SEB). According to the Ministry of Coal, none of the 162 privately managed Schools, which receives grant-in-aid from ECL, has been recognised by State Education Board (SEB). Further, BCCL provides financial assistance to 89 private Schools, which impart education at primary, middle and high School. Out of 89 Schools, only 4 or 5 have been recognised by SEB. Further, only 6 Schools out of 47 Schools that receive financial assistance from CCL have been recognised by SEB. Thus only 10 out of 298 Schools, which impart education at primary, middle and high school, have been recognised by SEB.

37. The Committee also note that the teachers of privately managed Schools have filed writ petition in Jharkhand High Court, *inter-alia* demanding parity of pay scales with teachers of State Government of Jharkhand or the clerical grade in BCCL. The Hon'ble Ranchi High Court in their judgement dated 10.9.2002 in respect of CWJC No. 2226 of 2000 directed BCCL to pay teachers of Schools aided by them a salary at par with equivalent to clerical grade in BCCL. However, BCCL filed an appeal in Ranchi High Court, which *vide* its order dated 12.12.2002 stayed its earlier order. Subsequently, Division Bench of Jharkhand High Court, passed an order on 21.01.2004 and set aside the judgement delivered on 10.09.2002 and the writ petitions were dismissed. The teacher have since filed an SLP in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the above judgement.

38. The Committee are deeply anguished about the scheme propounded by the educational policy of Coal India Ltd. formulated with avowed objective of providing easy access to the basic education for children of the employees in the coal field areas, as envisaged in the National Coal Wage Agreement. The Committee are constrained at the blatant travesty of the so called 'welfare' envisaged in the policy. The said policy stipulates that a coal PSUs would provide infrastructure, furniture etc., to the project Schools and would bear all the running costs incurred over and above the fees and other charges taken by such Schools. As regards, other privately managed Schools, a coal PSUs would merely give grant-in-aid as a means of financial assistance. In financial terms the chasm widened to such an extent that whereas the

project Schools received the sum of Rs. 4725.65 lakhs, the privately managed Schools were to manage with meagre amount of Rs. 1016.72 lakhs during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 from Coal India Limited. It goes without saying that project Schools will cater to the children of elites whereas poorer section will have to be contended with privately managed Schools. The Committee are aghast to note that despite our pledge to establish ourselves as a 'Socialist Republic', the Ministry of Coal has been instrumental in perpetuating class system thereby depriving the poorest stratas of the society of its rightfull dues. The Committee strongly deprecate the said unwarranted discrimination and the scheme of grants-in-aid as the means of financial assistance to privately managed Schools, being prejudiced with unscientific basis.

39. The Committee are convinced that the Ministry of coal and the coal PSUs thereunder cannot absolve themselves of their responsibilities of allround welfare measures in the areas fo their activities particularly with respect to environment, health, drinking water, sanitation and above all the education. The Committee feel that the mushrooming of educational institution in an around coal field areas, makes the task of coal PSUs difficult in promoting quality education in real sense. The Committee are of the view that while on the one hand the coal PSUs are duty bound to improve the standards of teaching and infrastructure facilities in such schools, some amount of measures are needed to regulate the opening of new schools. The Committee are of the view that short term as well as long term measures are imperative for effectively dealing with these twin issues. The Committee, therefore, desire that a comprehensive study on the functioning, infrastructure, teacher-student ratio, etc., should be undertaken by an expert body consisting of representatives of trade unions, management, educationist, etc. to assess the ways and means to improve the standards of education and make them financial self-reliant.

40. The Committee are unhappy at pathetic state of affairs wherein barely 10 out of 298 privately managed schools have been recognized by State Education Boards. The Committee recommend that the welfare boards of the concerned PSUs should make concerted efforts and assist managing committees of these schools to help them to get recognition from the State Education Boards. The Committee also desire that the prior permission from the respective Welfare Board may be made a pre condition for any new school to qualify for any financial assistance from coal PSUs.

41. The Committee also desire that the welfare boards in coal PSUs should be further strengthened and made broad based by inclusion of representatives of State Government, Trade Unions, Privately managed schools, educationists, etc., as to promote educational activities on scientific lines in the coal field areas. The welfare boards may also strive for consolidation of existing schools and opening of new schools wherever necessary, and frame the guidelines for educational institutions on the basis of the comprehensive study undertaken by the expert body.

42. The Committee refrain to comment on the issue of parity of pay scales with teachers of Government schools or clerical grade in coal PSUs, raised by the petitioners since the matter is pending in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The

Committee nevertheless consider the present grant-in-aid towards salary of teachers of privately managed schools woefully inadequate. The Committee understand that under the 'Shikshak Mitra' Scheme being implemented by the State Government of Bihar, every teacher receives a minimum salary of Rs. 4000/- per month. The Committee therefore, recommend that as interim measure the grant-in-aid given by coal PSUs may be enhanced so as to ensure that every teacher is paid at least at the rate of minimum wages for a skilled person along with a special teaching remuneration of Rs. 2000/- or Rs. 2500/- or Rs. 3000/- per month depending upon whether the teacher is taking classes at primary, middle and high school level with additional Rs. 500 per month being paid for trained and qualified teachers. However, it may be ensured that every teacher in privately managed school receives a minimum salary of Rs. 4000/- per month as in the case of 'Shikshak Mitra' Scheme. The Committee also recommend the Ministry to formulate a new education policy with egalitarian objectives to provide basic education for children of the employees as well as all sections of the society in coal field area.

NEW DELHI;
20 March, 2007

29 Phalguna, 1928(Saka)

PRABHUNATH SINGH,
Chairman,
Committee on Petitions.

MINUTES OF THE THIRTY-FOURTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE
ON PETITIONS
(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

The Committee on Petitions sat on Friday, 31st March, 2006 from 1200 hrs. to 1440 hrs. in Committee Room 'C', Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Prabhunath Singh — *Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Shri N.S.V. Chitthan
3. Dr. M. Jagannath
4. Adv. Suresh Kurup
5. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
6. Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia
7. Shri Vijoy Krishna

SECRETARIAT

1. Shri P. Sreedharan — *Joint Secretary*
2. Shri A.K. Singh — *Director*
3. Shri U.B.S. Negi — *Under Secretary*
4. Shri M.S. Jaspal — *Assistant Director*

WITNESSES

Ministry of Coal

1. Shri H.C. Gupta — Secretary
2. Shri Abhiram Sharma — CMD, MCL
3. Shri Pradeep Kumar — Addl. Secretary
4. Shri Rajiv Sharma — Joint Secretary
5. Shri B.K. Panda — Director & Commissioner, CMPFO
6. Shri H.C. Agarwal — Director
7. Shri Shashi Kumar — CMD (CIL)
8. Md. Salimuddin — Director (P), CIL
9. Shri P.S. Bhattacharyya — CMD (BCCL)
10. Shri D.C. Garg — Director (P), BCCL
11. Shri D. Chakraborty — CMD, ECL
12. Shri A. Chattopadhyay — Director (P), ECL
13. Shri Suresh Kumar Vashishth — District Magistrate, Angul, Orissa
14. Shri Tarun Kanti Mishra — Principal Secretary (Deptt. of Revenue) Govt. of Orissa

2. At the outset, Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Coal and drew their attention to Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha regarding confidentiality of the proceedings. The Chairman also drew attention to Direction 95 which clearly stipulates that the Committee shall also meet as often as necessary to consider representations, letters, telegrams from various individuals, associations etc. which are not covered by the rules relating to petitions and give directions for their disposals.

3. Thereafter, the Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of the Ministry of Coal on the following petitions/representations:—

- (i) Petition from Shri Bhuban Ch. Paramanik, Secretary, Bhojudih Coal Washery, Thikadar Sramik Union, Distt. Purulia, West Bengal and presented by Shri Basudeb Acharia, M.P. regarding absorption of contractual workmen working at Bhojudih Coal Washery;
- (ii) Petitions from Shri Kalindi Samal and Shri Chittaranjan Pradhan, Talcher, Orissa and presented by Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, M.P. regarding non-implementation or Rehabilitation Policy, 1989 of Government of Orissa by Mahanadi Coal Fields Ltd. (MCL) and others;
- (iii) Representation from Shri B.P. Verma, Joint Secretary, BCCL Zone, Dhanbad on various issues related with BCCL, Dhanbad;
- (iv) Representation from Shri B.K. Singh, General Secretary, Koyla Khadan Shikshak Morcha, received through Shri George Fernandes, M.P. regarding grant of higher pay scales to the teachers of Colliery Schools;
- (v) Representation from Shri Subhash Singh, General Secretary, Janata Dal (United), Burdwan, West Bengal for action against the Officers of BCCL for not clearing the cases of appointments on compassionate grounds;
- (vi) Representation from Shri Dharmendra Kumar, Distt. Hazaribagh and others regarding appointment on the post of Junior Overmen in Eastern Coalfields Limited; and
- (vii) Representation from Shri Raj Kumar Singh, President, Koyla Mazdoor Congress, Rajmahal Group of Mines, Godda, Jharkhand regarding irregularities in the PF Office of Devghar.

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- (iv) **Representation from Shri B.K. Singh, General Secretary, Koyla Khadan Shikshak Morcha, received through Shri George Fernandes, M.P. regarding grant of higher pay scales to the teachers of Colliery Schools;**

The following issues/points were discussed by the Committee:—

- (i) details about payment of minimum wages as per law and actual wages paid to the Colliery Schools teachers;
- (ii) establishment of the Colliery Schools and their management;
- (iii) details about project schools and private managed schools in CIL;

- (iv) Implementation and recommendations of Central Wage Board for Coal Mining Industry (CWBCMI) by the CIL;
- (v) details about the infrastructure of the schools run by CIL; and
- (vi) administrative/financial implications of the demand of the Colliery teachers for grant of salary at par with State Government.

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4. The Committee asked the witness to send the replies on points or demands which were not supplied or readily available with them during the evidence, within, the stipulated period.

5. A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting of the Committee was kept on record.

The witnesses then withdrew.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE FORTY-FIFTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON
PETITIONS
(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

The Committee on Petitions sat on Tuesday, 19th September, 2006 from 1400 hours to 1525 hours in Committee Room No. 'D' Ground Floor, Parliament House Annexe, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Prabhunath Singh—*Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Shri Shingada Damodar Barku
3. Shri Nandkumar Singh Chauhan
4. Shri N.S.V. Chitthan
5. Shri Mohan Jena
6. Shri Wangyuh W. Konyak
7. Adv. Suresh Kurup
8. Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan
9. Shri Paras Nath Yadav

SPECIAL INVITEE

1. Shri Ramadhar Kashyap, MP (Rajya Sabha)

SECRETARIAT

- | | | |
|---------------------|---|------------------------|
| 1. Shri A.K. Singh | — | <i>Director</i> |
| 2. Shri U.B.S. Negi | — | <i>Under Secretary</i> |

WITNESSES

Ministry of Coal

1. Shri H.C. Gupta—Secretary (Coal)
2. Shri Predeep Kumar—Special Secretary (Coal)
3. Shri Rajiv Sharma—Joint Secretary (LA)
4. Shri B.K. Panda—Director (PRIW-I)
5. Shri Shashi Kumar—Chairman, CIL
6. Shri V.K. Singh—CMD, NCL
7. Shri D. Chakravarti—CMD, ECL
8. Shri P.S. Bhattacharya—CMD, BCCL
9. Shri Salimmuddin—Director (P&IR), CIL
10. Shri A. Chattopadhyaya—Director (P), ECL
11. Shri K.S. Kropcha—Joint Secretary (Coal)
12. Shri Shashi Prakash—CVO, CIL
13. Shri K. C. Samaria—Deputy Secretary (CA-II/Vig.)
14. Shri B.K. Sinha—CMD, SECL
15. Shri K. Ranganath—Dir. (Marketing), CIL
16. Shri S.K. Bartiyar—Dir. (Personnel), NCL
17. Shri Ajay Kumar—Dir. (P), CCL

2. At the outset, the Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Coal and drew their attention to Direction 55(1) of the Directions by the Speaker regarding confidentiality of the proceedings. The Chairman also drew attention to Direction 95 which stipulates that the Committee shall also meet as often as necessary to consider representation, letters, telegrams from various individuals, associations etc. which are not covered by the rules relating to petitions and give directions for their disposals.

3. Thereafter the Committee took oral evidence of the representatives of Ministry of Coal on the following representations:—

- (i) Representation from Shri Rajesh Kumar Sahu, Distt. Sidhi (MP) regarding no special drive for filling up of vacancies from Other Backward Classes by Northern Coal Fields Ltd., Singrauli;
- (ii) Representation from Shri Mritunjay Kumar Singh, Distt. Saran (Bihar) against the proposal of Coal India Administration for closure of Regional Sales Office in Bihar and other States;
- (iii) Representation requesting to grant higher pay scales to the teachers of Colliery Schools; and

- (iv) Representation regarding pilferage of huge quantity of coal worth thousand crores of rupees in South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL).

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IV. Representation requesting to grant higher pay scales to the teachers of Colliery Schools

The Committee discussed about the need to increase the salary of the teacher of colliery schools from Rs. 2500/- to Rs. 4000/- per month.

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5. The Committee asked the witness to send the replies on points or demands which were not supplied or readily available with them during the evidence, within, the stipulated period.

The witnesses then withdrew.

6. A copy of the verbatim proceedings of the sitting of the Committee was kept on record.

The Committee then adjourned.

MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE
ON PETITIONS
(FOURTEENTH LOK SABHA)

The Committee on Petitions sat on Tuesday, the 20th March, 2007 from 1500 hours to 1530 hours in Chairman's Room No. 45 (II), Ground Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi.

PRESENT

Shri Prabhunath Singh—*Chairman*

MEMBERS

2. Shri N.S.V. Chitthan
3. Shri Anant Gangaram Geete
4. Shri C. Kuppusami
5. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
6. Shri Kishan Singh Sangwan
7. Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia

SECRETARIAT

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|-------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Shri A.K. Singh | — | <i>Director</i> |
| 2. Shri U.B.S. Negi | — | <i>Deputy Secretary</i> |
| 3. Shri H.R. Kamboj | — | <i>Deputy Secretary-II</i> |
| 4. Shri V.P. Gupta | — | <i>Under Secretary</i> |
| 5. Smt. Jagriti Tewatia | — | <i>Committee Officer</i> |

2. The Committee considered the draft Twenty-Fourth, Twenty-Fifth and Twenty Sixth Reports and adopted the same with slight modifications.

3. The Committee decided to undertake on-the-spot study tour to Ranchi, Kolkata and Guwahati from 16th April to 20th April, 2007.

4. The Committee also authorised the Chairman to finalise and present the Reports to the House.

The Committee then adjourned.