

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
RAJYA SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO : 11
TO BE ANSWERED ON : 19.07.2021**

Illegal purchase and theft of coal from coal mines

*11 Shri Ram Vichar Netam :-

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- a. whether Government is aware of the illegal purchase and theft of coal from coal mines in the States, especially in Chhattisgarh;
- b. if so, the details of cases that have come into notice and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- c. whether there is any estimate of the quantity and value of the stolen coal in the coal mines of Chhattisgarh during the last two years and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, COAL AND MINES
(SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI)**

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of the Rajya Sabha Starred Question no 11 for answer on 19.07.2021 raised by Shri Ram Vichar Netam regarding ‘Illegal purchase and theft of coal from coal mines’.

(a) & (b) : Theft of coal and sale/purchase of such coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely. First Information Reports (FIRs) are lodged whenever any incident of theft / pilferage of coal comes to the notice of the coal companies. FIRs lodged in cases of theft/pilferage of coal during 2019-2020 & 2020-21, company-wise and State-wise is given below:-

(Provisional)

Name of the Company	State	2019-20	2020-21
		FIR LODGED	FIR LODGED
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.(ECL)	WB	228	28
	Jharkhand	82	6
	Sub Total	310	34
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.(BCCL)	Jharkhand	12	4
	WB	0	0
	Sub Total	12	4
Central Coalfields Ltd.(CCL)	Jharkhand	13	13
Northern Coalfields Ltd.(NCL)	MP	0	3
	UP	0	0
	Sub Total	0	3
Western Coalfields Ltd.(WCL)	Maharashtra	18	5
	MP	0	0
	Sub Total	18	5
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL)	MP	1	0
	Chhattisgarh	2	0
	Sub Total	3	0
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.(MCL)	Orissa	2	4
North Eastern Coalfields(NEC)	Assam	27	9
Coal India Limited(CIL)		385	72

Law & Order is a State subject, hence primarily; it is the responsibility of the State/District administration to take necessary deterrent action to stop/curb theft / pilferage of coal.

Steps taken to check Theft / pilferage of coal:

- RFID based Boom Barriers and CCTV cameras at weighbridges, GPRS based vehicle tracking system with geo-fencing and CCTV cameras at strategic locations installed in mines.
- Regular FIRs are lodged by the Colliery Management and CISF with local police. A close watch on the activities of criminals is being kept by CISF.

- Interaction and liaison with District officials at regular intervals and holding meetings with officials of the State Administration.
- Fixing of holograms and putting signatures of authorized officials of CISF to check pilferage during transportation of coal.
- Armed Guards have been deployed at Railway sidings.
- Escorting of coal rakes in coordination with RPF upto weighbridges arranged in pilferage prone areas.
- Surprise re-weighment of coal loaded trucks is done at weighbridges.
- Surprise checks / raids are conducted by flying squads of CISF/security department.
- Regular patrolling is conducted in and around the mine including OB dumps.
- Joint patrolling with local police is also being carried out in pilferage prone areas.
- Check posts have been established at entry / exit points where all coal laden vehicles are physically checked.
- Security at coal dumps has been strengthened by fencing, proper illumination and round the clock guarding.

Besides above, the Government of India has launched one mobile app namely “Khanan Prahari” and one web app “Coal Mine Surveillance and Management System (CMSMS)” for reporting unauthorized coal mining activities so that monitoring and suitable action can be taken by Law & Order authority.

(c) The quantity of coal recovered during the raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with State law and order authorities in last two years in r/o coal mines of Coal India Limited in Chhattisgarh, are as under:

Theft/Pilferage of coal

(Provisional)

Co.	State	2019-20		2020-21	
		Qty. Recovered (te)	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Qty. Recovered (te)	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)
SECL	Chhattisgarh	36.47	0.621	0.00	0.00
