

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5497
TO BE ANSWERED ON 28.03.2018**

Pilferage of Coal

**5497. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB :
SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :
SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE :**

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the mechanism put in place by the Government to check pilferage/theft of coal clandestinely from Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries in the country;
- (b) the number of raids conducted by the security personnel to unearth such pilferage/theft of coal along with number of officials of CIL and its subsidiaries found involved in such pilferage/theft across the country during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise and the action taken/being taken by the Government in such cases so far;
- (c) whether the Government has received suggestions from various quarters to prevent such pilferage/theft of coal across the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with the action taken/being taken by the Government on such suggestions so far; and
- (e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to eliminate such pilferage/theft of coal from CIL and its subsidiaries across the country?

ANSWER

**MINISTER FOR RAILWAYS AND COAL
(SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL)**

(a) to (e) Theft / pilferage of coal are carried out stealthily and clandestinely. Various suggestions from Members of Parliament, various organisations and general public to prevent pilferage / theft of coal are received from time to time. The same are duly considered in the Ministry and systemic improvement measures for preventing theft / pilferage are conveyed to Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries for compliance. Following steps are being taken by CIL subsidiaries to check such incidents in future :-

- At strategic locations of all mines Radio Frequency Identification Device (RFID) based Boom Barriers & closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera at weighbridges, General Packet Radio Services (GPRS) based vehicle tracking system with geofencing, CCTV camera have been installed.
- A close watch on the activities of criminals is being kept by Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). Regular FIRs are lodged by the Colliery Management and CISF with local Thana.
- At regular intervals interaction and liaison with District officials are made. Meeting with District Collector & other District Administrative Officials are held regularly.
- 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.
- Armed Guards have been deployed at Railway sidings.

- Escorting of coal rakes in coordination with Railway Protection Force [RPF] upto weighbridge, is 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 over burden (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.

As per the information received from Coal India Ltd., whenever any incident of theft / pilferage of coal comes to the notice of the coal companies, the Management of subsidiary companies lodges First Information Report (FIR) with local Thana to take necessary action. The status of conviction after reporting the case to local police is not easily available. The details of FIRs lodged in case of theft / pilferage of coal, subsidiary-wise and State-wise is as under :-

Company	State	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (upto December, 2017)
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	West Bengal	27	116	241	105
	Jharkhand	2	18	35	16
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	Jharkhand	9	9	10	9
	West Bengal	0	0	0	2
Central Coalfields Ltd.	Jharkhand	11	3	0	1
Northern Coalfields Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	0	0
	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	1	0
Western Coalfields Ltd.	Maharashtra	13	6	19	11
	Madhya Pradesh	0	0	1	0
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	Madhya Pradesh	2	0	1	1
	Chattisgarh	1	6	1	2
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	Orissa	4	0	1	0
North Eastern Coalfields	Assam	66	35	31	20
Coal India		135	193	341	167

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. The coal companies are working in close coordination with the State / local administration to prevent theft / pilferage of coal.
