

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF COAL  
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 152  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 07.12.2022

**Illegal Purchase and Coal Theft**

**152. SHRI BHOLANATH (B.P. SAROJ):  
SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN:**

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of the illegal purchase and theft of coal from coal mines during the last three years in the Country, State/UT-wise including Asansol and Durgapur of West Bengal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of theft incidents occurred during the said period especially in Asansol and Durgapur of West Bengal; and
- (c) the steps/action taken by the Government in this regard?

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

**(a) & (b):** The reply in respect of Coal India Limited is as under:

During the course of coal production by Coal India Limited, all statutory provisions under various Acts, Rules and Regulations are observed for conducting various activities. Theft / pilferage of 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 the last three years, company-wise and State-wise is given below:

(Provisional)

Name of the Company	State	FIR LODGED		
		2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
ECL	WB	45	28	228
	Jharkhand	7	6	82
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>310</b>
BCCL	Jharkhand	43	4	12
	WB	0	0	0
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>CCL</b>	<b>Jharkhand</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>
NCL	MP	0	3	0

	UP	1	0	0
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>
WCL	Maharashtra	19	5	18
	MP	0	0	0
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>
SECL	MP	2	0	1
	Chhattisgarh	1	0	2
	<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
MCL	Odisha	33	4	2
NEC	Assam	7	9	27
<b>Coal India Limited</b>		<b>210</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>385</b>

(c): 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 camera at weighbridges, GPRS based vehicle tracking system with geofencing and CCTV camera at strategic locations installed in mines.
- Regular FIRs are lodged by the Colliery Management and CISF with local Thana. A close watch on the activities of criminals is being kept by CISF.
- Interaction and liaison with District officials at regular intervals and holding meeting with Officials of the State Administration.
- 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 RPF up to 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 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.

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