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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of the Company</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>FIR LODGED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2021-22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECL</td>
<td>WB</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub Total</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BCCL</td>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>WB</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sub Total</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCL</td>
<td>Jharkhand</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCL</td>
<td>MP</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
(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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