

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO : 2620
ANSWERED ON: 10.03.2021

Theft of Coal

2620. DR. SUBHAS SARKAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:-

- a. whether Government is aware of illegal procurement and theft of coal from coal mines in the States, especially in West Bengal;
- b. if so, the details of cases that have come to the notice and the action taken by the Government in this regard; and
- c. whether there is any estimate of amount of coal and the quantum of financial value of coal that has been pilferage from mines in the States including West Bengal in last the three years and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(a) and (c) : Theft/pilferage of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely. So, it is difficult to assess and specify the exact quantum of coal stolen and losses incurred on account of theft/ pilferage. However, as per raids conducted by security personnel as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the State Government concerned, the quantity of coal recovered and its approximate value [Subsidiary-wise and State-wise] during the last three years are as under :-

(Provisional)

Co.	State	2017-18		2018-19		2019-20	
		Qty. Recovered (te)	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Qty. Recovered (te)	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)	Qty. Recovered (te)	Approx. Value (Rs. Lakh)
ECL	WB	8667.24	433.362	11063.39	562.817	13675.06	683.750
	Jharkhand	2346.53	117.327	4885.23	248.817	6877.28	343.870
	Total ECL	11013.77	550.689	15948.62	811.634	20552.34	1027.620
BCCL	Jharkhand	5093.34	199.113	5030.29	214.840	1443.37	56.149
	WB	537.35	20.198	682.05	24.992	0.00	0.000
	Total BCCL	5630.69	219.311	5712.34	239.833	1443.37	56.149
CCL	Jharkhand	539.97	15.791	595.51	12.753	914.55	24.371

NCL	MP	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000
	UP	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000
	Total NCL	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000
WCL	Maharashtra	261.96	7.634	261.05	7.595	277.03	9.624
	MP	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000
	Total WCL	261.96	7.634	261.05	7.595	277.03	9.624
SECL	MP	26.00	0.570	0.50	0.015	0.15	0.010
	Chattisgarh	38.00	0.770	9.30	0.380	36.47	0.621
	Total SECL	64.00	1.340	9.80	0.395	36.62	0.631
MCL	Orissa	92.53	0.925	257.22	4.572	72.33	0.624
NEC	Assam	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000	0.00	0.000
Total Coal India		17602.92	795.690	22784.54	1076.782	23296.24	1119.018

(b) 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. First Information Reports (FIRs) are lodged whenever any incident of theft/ pilferage of coal comes to the notice. The details of FIRs lodged in cases of theft/pilferage of coal during 2019 - 20, company - wise and State - wise is as under:

(Provisional)		
Name of the Company	State	2019-20
		FIR LODGED
ECL	WB	228
	Jharkhand	82
	Sub Total	310
BCCL	Jharkhand	12
	WB	0
	Sub Total	12
CCL	Jharkhand	13
NCL	MP	0
	UP	0
	Sub Total	0
WCL	Maharashtra	18
	MP	0
	Sub Total	18
SECL	MP	1
	Chattisgarh	2
	Sub Total	3
MCL	Orissa	2
NEC	Assam	27
Coal India Limited		385

Following steps have been taken to check Theft / pilferage of coal:

- RFID based Boom Barriers and CCTV cameras at weighbridges, GPRS based vehicle tracking system with geofencing and CCTV cameras installed at strategic locations 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 meetings 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 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 mines 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, the Ministry of Coal has launched Mobile App- Khanan Prahari and web App Coal Mines Surveillance & Management System (CMSMS) in July, 2018, for the purpose of detecting and taking action on unauthorized coal mining activities and enable law and order authorities to take suitable action in time. Till February, 2021, 443 Complaints have been registered. Action on the complaints, which were found true after verification by nodal officer, is taken in coordination with concerned law enforcement agencies.
