

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COAL

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5360
ANSWERED ON 25.03.2026

CORRUPTION IN EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED

5360. SHRI JAGANNATH SARKAR:

Will the Minister of **COAL** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of large-scale corruption, cartelization and tender rigging involving officials of Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) and a syndicate of associate companies operating from the same address in Paschim Bardhaman, West Bengal;

(b) whether enquiry has been initiated by the Ministry or referred to the Enforcement Directorate (ED) or Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and if so, the number of ECL employees arrested till now;

(c) whether the Government is aware of serious financial irregularities in ECL including the 1,300 crore coal pilferage scam in Kunustoria and Kajora regions as well as overloading, coal grade manipulation and violation of transportation laws and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the CAG in its Report No. 12 of 2024 has flagged undue favour to contractors resulting in an avoidable loss of 17.39 crore due to non-enforcement of contract terms and if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure accountability, prevent future malpractices in ECL?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL AND MINES
(SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY)

(a) Procurement in CIL (Coal India Limited) including ECL (Eastern Coalfield Limited) is conducted strictly as per manuals and approved policies, ensuring transparency. It is carried out through NIC e-procurement and GeM platforms. Equal access, wide publicity, and notified evaluation criteria promote broad vendor participation in tendering process. Safeguards like single bid checks, conflict prevention, IP monitoring, and penalties strengthen the process. Collectively these measures

ensures integrity, fairness, and compliance with the Code of Integrity for public procurement.

(b) No such formal complaint has been received in ECL from any of the bidders who have participated in the tenders conducted so far.

(c) All coal seam grades are verified and notified strictly as per prescribed procedures by the Coal Controller's Organization (CCO), a statutory body under the Ministry of Coal. Additionally, billing grade determination is conducted through independent third-party sampling agencies chosen by consumers, ensuring transparency and eliminating any such possibility etc.

(d) An enquiry into the audit case was conducted by a committee and action has been taken as per the advice of the committee.

(e) Various steps, inter alia, have been taken by the Government to ensure accountability in procurement. Such as,

- Implementation of E-Office, SAP, GeM/NIC portals, ICCC monitoring, Khanan Prahari app, grievance portal, e-auction, and COLARR ensures transparency, efficiency, and real-time tracking of operations.
- Standardization of procurement guidelines in alignment with Department of Expenditure norms, and well-defined SOPs.
- Regular vendor meetings at various levels address concerns promptly and improve overall system effectiveness.
