

[8 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) Non-finalisation of NCWA-VI is one of the demands included in the strike notice.

(d) Following steps have been taken for early finalisation of the wage agreement and to settle the issue with the Union:—

(i) The Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry-VI (JBCCI-VI) consisting of representatives of management of coal companies and five National Trade Unions was constituted on 03.04.1997 and negotiations are underway to finalise National Coal Wage Agreement-VI.

(ii) The Union has no locus-standi to raise an issue which pertains to the entire Coal Industry in the country, as it is not a recognised Union under the code of discipline.

(iii) The strike notice issued by the Union is likely to be seized in conciliation by the Regional Labour Commissioner (C), Hyderabad under the provisions of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Regional Labour Commissioner (C) has been requested by the Management of SCCL to advise the Union to withdraw the strike notice, as the issue of finalisation of NCWA-VI is before JBCCI-VI.

(iv) SCCL is appealing to the workmen not to respond to the above call of the Union as the issue has to be settled at JBCCI level and SCCL alone cannot finalise the NCWA-VI at Company level unilaterally.

Commercial mining of Coal

863. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited propose to allow commercial mining of coal by domestic private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor;

(c) whether restructuring of Coal India Limited would also be made and steps would be taken to curb the activities of mafia; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA):

(a) The Coal India Limited (CIL) have not proposed commercial mining of coal by domestic private companies.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer given to part (a) of the question.

(c) and (d) No decision to change the existing holding-subsiary structure of Coal India Limited (CIL) has been taken. The following steps are continuously taken by the coal producing subsidiary companies of CIL to curb the activities of the 'coal mafia':—

(i) Intensive patrolling by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and security personnel of coal companies.

(ii) Close liaison with the State/District authorities.

(iii) Raids by CISF and local police on illegal coal depots.

(iv) Surprise checks/raids by security personnel.

(v) Handing over of miscreants to the police and lodging of First Information Reports.

Resolving Financial Problem of sick coal companies

864. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Coal companies running in loss for the last two years; and

(b) what action Government have taken or propose to take to save these companies from financial problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) As per the audited accounts of Coal India Limited (CIL), three subsidiary companies of CIL, namely Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL), Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL) have incurred loss in the last two financial years of 1997-98 and 1998-99. However, CIL as a whole, have earned profit of Rs. 1803.99 crores in 1997-98 and Rs. 1451.79 crores in 1998-99.