

Appellate Tribunal for the appeals against the decisions of the Regulatory Authority for coal.

- (iii) The Authority shall adjudicate disputes relating, quality, testing, pricing, supply and sampling of coal.
- (iv) Appeals against the order of the Authority shall lie before the Appellate Tribunal established under Section 110 of the Electricity Act, 2003.

#### **Theft and black marketing of coal**

785. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of losses due to theft and black marketing of coal in the country;
- (b) if so, the details and number of cases of theft and black marketing of coal which came to light during the last three years, company-wise; and
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to check such malpractices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) and (b) Theft/pilferage of coal is carried out stealthily and clandestinely. As such, it is not possible to specify the exact quantum of coal stolen and loss of revenue on account of theft/pilferage of coal. However, as per raids conducted by the security personnel as well as joint raids with the law and order authorities of the concerned State Governments, the quantity of coal recovered and its approximate value during the last three years is as under:

Period	Quantity (Te)	Value (₹ in lakh)
2011-12	14920	316.93
2012-13	15370	315.67
2013-14	16840	599.82

Number of FIRs lodged in theft cases, company-wise, in the last 3 years is given as under:

Sl. No.	Name of the Coal Company	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
1.	Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL)	28	21	08
2.	Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL)	17	14	12
3.	Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL)	00	00	00
4.	Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd. (MCL)	00	00	00
5.	Northern Coalfields Ltd. (NCL)	00	00	00

Sl. No.	Name of the Coal Company	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
6.	Western Coalfields Ltd. (WCL)	20	22	09
7.	South Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (SECL)	00	00	00
8.	Coal Mines Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI)	00	00	00
9.	North Eastern Coalfield (NEC)	00	00	00

A few complaints, like 2 from North Eastern Coalfields Ltd., 1 from Central Coalfields Limited, 1 from Western Coalfields Limited, 1 from South Eastern Coalfields Limited, etc., regarding black-marketing and pilferage of coal have been reported. Further, Central Bureau of Investigation has registered about 12 cases of black-marketing.

(c) The measures taken by the coal companies to check such illegal activities include:

- (i) Concrete walls have been erected on the mouth of the abandoned mines to prevent access and illegal activities in these areas.
- (ii) Regular raids/checks being conducted by security personnel and static security pickets including armed guards during the night hours are being deployed at pithead depots.
- (iii) Surprise raids/checks being conducted jointly by security personnel and law and order authorities of the concerned State Government.
- (iv) Dumping of the overburden is being done on the outcrop zones, which are not required to be mined.
- (v) Collection of intelligence reports about illegal coal depots and illegal movement of coal and informing district authorities of the same for taking preventive action.
- (vi) Installation of check posts at vulnerable points to check transport documents.
- (vii) Training of existing security personnel, refresher training of CISF personnel and basic training of new recruits in security discipline for strengthening the security set up.
- (viii) The coal companies maintain close liaison with the State authorities.
- (ix) Fencing, lighting arrangements and deployment of armed guards round the clock has been done around the coal dumping yard.
- (x) Regular patrolling is conducted in and around the mine including overburden dumps.
- (xi) Armed Guards have been deployed at Railway sidings.

- (xii) Technology initiatives like GPS/GPRS/CCTVs and electronic weigh-bridges have been installed.
- (xiii) 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.
- (xiv) Regular FIRs are lodged by the Management of the collieries and CISF with local police stations against the pilferage/theft of coal. A close watch on the activities of criminals is kept by CISF, etc.

**Private companies in coal mining**

†786. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government plans to allow participation of the private companies in the mining of coal;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether Government is bringing in the Coal Mining Amendment Bill?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court *vide* its judgement dated 25.08.2014 and order dated 24.09.2014 in Writ Petition (Criminal) No. 120 of 2012 (Manoharlal Sharma *Vs.* Principal Secretary and Ors.) and Writ Petition (Civil) No. 463 of 2012 (Common Cause *Vs.* UOI and Ors.) as well as other connected PILs, has cancelled the allocation of 204 coal blocks out of 218 coal blocks allocated since 1993.

It was expedient in public interest for the Central Government to take immediate action in the light of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's judgement to allocate coal mines to new allocattees keeping in view the energy security of the country and to minimize any impact on core sectors such as steel, cement and power utilities, which are vital for the development of the nation. Accordingly, the Government has promulgated the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014 on 21.10.2014 for allocation of cancelled coal blocks to be selected through an auction or allotment to Government companies, as the case may be. The Ordinance has also inserted Section 3(A) in the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 and amended Section 11(A) of Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 thereby removing the restriction of end use from the eligibility to undertake coal mining.

Further, the Board of CIL has recently finalized a Model Contract Agreement for mining of coal in the various mines of CIL. The mine operator shall be responsible for development and operation of the coal mine, construction of infrastructure facilities etc. However, the responsibility of acquisition of land, obtaining statutory clearances etc.

---

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.