

CHAPTER XVIII

VIGILANCE ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

VIGILANCE SET-UP:

18.1 The Ministry of Coal exercises superintendence and supervision over the vigilance administration of 10 Public Sector Undertakings & one autonomous body under its jurisdiction as well as over the Ministry staff. The vigilance set up of the Ministry is headed by Joint Secretary (Coal)-cum-Chief Vigilance Officer who is assisted by Director (Vigilance) and a Vigilance Desk. The vigilance wings of Coal India Limited, its subsidiaries and NLC are headed by full time Chief Vigilance Officers. The CMPF Organisation has a part-time CVO. These units have been structured in conformity with the guidelines of Central Vigilance Commission and commensurate with the organisational requirements. The Vigilance set-up of CIL, its subsidiaries, NLC and CMPF is given in **Annexure -XV**.

18.2 Being the watch-dog of Coal and Lignite PSUs, the Ministry paid due attention to streamlining the procedures and practices prevailing in these organizations so as to make their working more transparent and systematic thus minimizing chances of corruption. For effective supervision and monitoring of the functioning of Vigilance Department interaction with CVOs of PSUs is maintained at the level of Joint Secretary/Chief Vigilance Officer.

18.3 The Ministry of Coal monitors the work of Vigilance Departments of Coal India Limited, its subsidiaries, Neyveli Lignite Corporation and Coal Mines Provident Fund Organization. The Vigilance Department of CIL also coordinates the activities of the subsidiary vigilance wings and also acts as a nodal agency for compiling information/statistics, etc. for the Ministry of Coal and Central Vigilance Commission. The Vigilance Department also do liaison with the Central Bureau of Investigation and other anti-corruption agencies and advise the Chief Executives of coal and lignite companies on all aspects of preventive and punitive vigilance.

VIGILANCE AWARENESS WEEK:

18.4 A Vigilance Awareness week was observed from 31st October 2002 to 6th November 2002 in the Ministry of Coal, CIL, its subsidiary companies, NLC and CMPFO. As a part of observance, a pledge was administered to all public servants. The messages of Shri P.Shankar, Central Vigilance Commissioner and Shri H.J.Dora, Vigilance Commissioner were circulated. Banners/posters on Vigilance Awareness Week were displayed.

18.5 In addition, essay competitions, debates etc. were organised in all the subsidiaries of Coal India Limited. In ECL, a workshop entitled “Common irregularities and their prevention” was organized where CMD, CVO and GM(HRD), ECL among others were present. BCCL Vigilance organised workshops and seminars on common irregularities observed and means to eliminate them. Vigilance Officers of CCL conducted intensive checks in all the units of the company with a view to create awareness. In WCL, slogan competition and seminars were organised. In SECL, a workshop was conducted in which senior executives from various areas participated. In NCL, workshops were organised for top

level executives as well middle level managers where issues like common irregularities in award of major contracts were discussed and clarified.

18.6 In Neyveli Lignite Corporation, special lectures, seminars, and programmes on various topics of vigilance were organized on all the six days, where workmen, supervisors and executives of NLC participated. Various competitions were held in which the school children and the employees of NLC participated. Prizes were distributed to winners of the various competitions during the valedictory function on 6.11.2002.

PREVENTIVE VIGILANCE:

18.7 In order to bring transparency, uniformity and streamlining of the procedures and practices in sensitive areas of working of the PSUs, the following measures were taken for system improvement: -

- a) Measures to curb coal stock shortages and over reporting of production in coal producing subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited.
- b) Steps for prevention of irregularities in providing employment by subsidiary companies.
- c) Transparency in the grant of transport contracts for movement of coal and sand.
- d) Quarterly review of disciplinary proceedings pending for more than one year.
- e) Identification of sensitive Departments and transfer of personnel occupying the sensitive posts for a long period.
- f) Surprise checks to unearth the intentional lapses, manipulations, mal-practices, dereliction of duty etc.
- g) Workshops are conducted by CIL Vigilance and guidelines framed/revised with a view to preventive vigilance.

SURVEILLANCE AND DETECTION:

18.8 All PSUs under the administrative control of Ministry of Coal have identified and prepared the Agreed List of Suspected Officers in consultation with the CBI. Altogether 121 officials were identified for surveillance during 2002. Further, 231 officers of PSUs were also placed in the List of Officers of Gazetted Status of Doubtful Integrity.

18.9 In the CVOs meeting held in July 2002 at Varanasi it was felt that the whole tendering procedure should be made transparent and scope of misinterpretation of various provisions of Manuals and the NIT documents should be eliminated. With this objective, a Committee was constituted by CVO, CIL comprising CVO, MCL and CVO, ECL and Heads of Civil & Purchase Divisions of Coal India Limited. The Committee had completed the study and given a report to this Ministry in December 2002. This is under consideration.

18.10 A surprise check by ECL Vigilance revealed that different rates for contractual transportation of Lime Stone Dust Under Rate Contract by different Areas were in operation.

The suggestion of Vigilance Department for a uniform rate through centralized tendering by Industrial Engg. Department is under examination by the Management. Further, the suggestion to collect the material from the nearer depot only in order to save transportation charges has been accepted by the management. In case the materials are to be transported from far-off depot, a Non-availability Certificate from the nearer depot may be obtained for passing the bills by the Finance Department. The suggestion is under implementation.

18.11 In order to curb the black marketing of coal by SSI linked/sponsored units, CIL & its subsidiaries have undertaken site inspections of consumer premises (around 5% of the linked/sponsored units) as a special drive.

18.12 To create awareness on the rules and procedures, surprise checks are carried out by NLC Vigilance which unearth the intentional lapses, manipulations, malpractices, dereliction of duty etc. Their reports highlighting the areas of concern are sent to the Management for implementation.

PUNITIVE ACTION:

18.13 Complaints received from various sources against the officials of the Ministry and PSUs were processed in the Ministry. Based on the findings, Departmental proceedings for major and minor penalty have been initiated during the year 2002 by the Ministry against one and three Board level Executives of Coal Companies respectively. In one case a minor penalty has also been imposed. Ten complaints received from the Anti-corruption Cell of the Prime Minister's Office during 2002-2003 (up to 27.1.2003) were got investigated promptly.

18.14 A brief of the cases taken up for investigation, Departmental inquiry, cases in which penalty was imposed, number of officials placed under suspension, number of regular cases registered by CBI and number of officials transferred from sensitive posts by the coal companies, NLC and CMPF is given in **Annexure -XVI**.

IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS:

18.15 Some of the important achievements of Vigilance wings of the Ministry and Public Sector Undertakings during the year 2002-2003 are as follows: -

- (i) The former Minister of Coal and Mines took review meetings with all the CVOs of the Public Sector Undertakings under this Ministry on 29.10.2002 and 21.1.2003. the progress of cases under investigation and under Departmental inquiry was reviewed and CVOs directed to strictly adhere to the time-frame prescribed by CVC. The CVOs were advised to conduct surprise checks of the distance slabs being claimed by the contractors for transportation of coal, of the utilization of the company's workshops and of the quantities of actual overburden removal as against the projected removal. The CMDs of the companies were also directed to provide the required staff supplement to increase the productivity of the CVOs.
- (ii) In BCCL, instructions have been issued to all CGMs/GMs regarding a system for keeping of serviceable items at Central & Regional Workshops and Stores at the instance of vigilance Department. Instructions have also been issued for direct taking back old unserviceable broken machinery parts etc. in stores from the workshop after

repair of Pumps, Motors, transformers, switches etc. and maintaining proper records. Similarly, circular has been issued regarding Periodical Stock adjustment (Reconciliation) of Diesel & Petrol pumping station.

- (iii) In a major case of overburden removal in ECL, eleven executives including four GMs have been charge sheeted after obtaining CVC's first stage advice. Comprehensive study has also been made to review the existing sand and coal transportation system.
- (iv) Matter of sub-letting of and unauthorized construction in company quarters have been taken up by CCL vigilance with competent authority for disciplinary action against involved employees. Irregularities in coal transportation from different collieries to Kathara Washery were investigated and punitive action suggested.
- (v) Surprise inspections carried out by Vigilance Department of WCL revealed that Road Sale trucks were being loaded by engaging Pay Loaders of the Contractors engaged in the Colliery for Coal Transportation Work. Instructions have been issued by D(T) to prevent such loading arrangement of road sale trucks in order to avoid selected loading of coal as against the grade of coal given in the release order.
- (vi) NCL Vigilance has devised new formats through which responsibility for irregularities in weighing through mechanical and electronic weighbridges can be fixed at different levels. In addition, guidelines for rehabilitation of HEMMs have been laid down and a proforma has been devised for fixing up the responsibility.
- (vii) During various inspections conducted by CMPDIL vigilance, stress has been laid on local purchase, maintenance of stores, cash books, log books, records of use of telephones, etc..
- (viii) Surprise inspections by MCL Vigilance have led to detection of irregularities in keeping of stocks at various Departments. A colliery store has now been set up at the project level as per the Materials Management Manual. The tender notice format has also been standardized at the instance of vigilance.
- (ix) Studies covering the areas of industrial units and other service units were conducted by NLC vigilance to bring out the loopholes in the existing system and the possible manipulation by the officials. These studies brought out both tangible benefits in the form of financial savings to the organization and intangible benefits such as scope for streamlining the existing rules and procedures to plug the loopholes.
- (x) Computerisation of all the offices of CMPF organisation is under progress to bring transparency in procedures.

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