

CHAPTER-XVI

VIGILANCE ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

VIGILANCE SET-UP:

16.1 The Department 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 staff of the Department of Coal. The vigilance set up of the Department 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 CMPFO is given in Annexure-XVI.

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

16.3. The Department of coal, monitors the work of Vigilance Departments of Coal India Limited, its subsidiaries, Neyveli Lignite Corporation and Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation. 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 Department of Coal and Central Vigilance Commission. The Vigilance Departments 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:

16.4 A Vigilance Awareness week was observed from 31st October 2001 to 6th November 2001 in the Department 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 the Hon'ble Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani, Leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha, Smt. Sonia Gandhi, the Central Vigilance Commissioner, Shri N. Vittal and the Vigilance Commissioner, Shri V.S. Mathur were circulated. Banners/posters on Vigilance Awareness Week were displayed. The Hon'ble Minister of State (Coal & Mines) also addressed all the officers of the level of Under Secretary and above, working in the Department of Coal and Department of Mines, on 5.11.2001. A copy of the Citizens' Guide to Fight corruption was circulated in the meeting as well as to all the officers and Sections of Department of Coal.

16.5 In addition, group discussions were organised by CIL (Hqrs.) Vigilance Division on the themes of Audit Report and Vigilance, perspective of ethical behaviour and Agreed List as a tool for preventive vigilance, where CVOs of some Kolkata PSUs and CBI executives participated. A seminar was organised in ECL Hqrs. where CVO, CIL was the chief guest and Ex-Commissioner of Police, Kolkata addressed the gathering of about 100 executives. Debate and Essay Competitions were organised in ECL, BCCL, WCL, SECL & CMPDIL. Two vigilance awareness workshops each were organised by NCL and MCL Vigilance Departments. Copies of Citizens' Guide to Fight Corruption were circulated in WCL, SECL, NCL, MCL and BCCL. 27 Posters with attractive slogans in Hindi and English were pasted at all areas and headquarters of CCL.

16.6 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. The Citizens' Guide was circulated to the employees of NLC. 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 6.11.2001.

PREVENTIVE VIGILANCE:

16.7 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.

SURVEILLANCE AND DETECTION:

16.8 All PSUs under the administrative control of Department of Coal have identified and prepared the Agreed List of Suspected Officers in consultation with the CBI. Altogether 113 officials were identified for surveillance during 2001. Further, 136 officers of PSUs were also placed in the List of Officers of Gazetted Status of Doubtful Integrity.

16.9 Regarding prevention of irregularities in employment with particular reference to employment to land losers and their dependants, random checking has been initiated by Vigilance Division so that genuine persons, in accordance with the Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy of CIL as updated upto August 2000, should get the appointment.

16.10 With regard to the contracts for coal and sand transportation, surprise checks/inspections are being made in those areas where the Ex-serviceman Transport Companies are not fulfilling the norms as prescribed in the MOU. CIL Board has approved the normative rates in respect of Ex-serviceman Transport Companies.

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

16.12 In pursuance of CVC letter No.001/VGL/5 dated 25.4.2001, audits reports of CAG are now being scrutinised and necessary follow up action is initiated in cases where serious and gross irregularities are detected.

PUNITIVE ACTION:

16.13 Complaints received from various sources against the officials of the Department and PSUs were processed in the Department. Based on the findings, departmental proceedings for major penalty have been initiated against two Board level Executives of Coal Companies. Twelve complaints received from the Anti-corruption Cell of the Prime Minister's Office during 2001-2002 (upto 30.1.2001) were investigated promptly. Action-taken reports were sent to the PMO every fortnight.

16.14 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 CMPFO is given in Annexure-XVII.

IMPORTANT ACHIEVEMENTS:

16.15 Some of the important achievements of Vigilance Departments of the Department and Public Sector Undertakings during the year 2001-2002 were as follows: -

(i) In CIL Vigilance 'Code of Uniform System of maintenance, control and verification of coal stock in all mines of CIL, 1992', is under revision so that proper supervision of stocks could be made.

(ii) Improvement in Service Records of the employees is one of thrust areas of BCCL Vigilance. Preventive checks led to immediate retirement of 23 employees of Ena Colliery, 4 at Tetulmari Colliery and 1 at CV Area Office, who were slated to continue for another 3 to 4 years on the basis of tampered/wrong interpretation of Service Records. Correction in date of birth of a large number of persons was also effected on the basis of the report of Medical Board for Age Assessment, which reduced their working span by 1 to 4 years. In addition, various steps were taken by BCCL Vigilance to improve the procedure adopted for the use of explosives and to prevent tampering of electronic weighbridges and pilferage of coal.

(iii) A total of 65 departmental inquiries were completed in ECL during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 (upto December) as a result of a special drive launched by the Vigilance Department.

- (iv) Files relating to transport contracts and their routes were studied by CCL Vigilance and as a result extension was not granted to an Ex-serviceman Transport Company.
- (v) In WCL, on the initiative of Vigilance Department a system for proper accounting of scrap materials and prevention of its pilferage from yards has been developed.
- (vi) SECL Vigilance has introduced a system for giving wider publicity to tenders. An exclusive Notice Board has been established with locking arrangement and a Register maintained for recording the dates of display and removal of tender notices.
- (vii) NCL Vigilance has desired new production reporting formats through which responsibility for irregularities can be fixed at different levels. In addition, purchase wing has been directed to emboss the NCL seal on stores so that possibility of their pilferage could be checked.
- (viii) In implementing the directive of CVC, CMPDIL has computerised the property returns of its executives.
- (ix) Surprise inspections by MCL Vigilance have led to detection of irregularities in local purchases, topping of approach roads, etc. Disciplinary action has been initiated in all such cases.
- (x) 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 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 loopholes.
- (xi) Computerisation of all the offices of CMPF organisation is under progress to bring transparency in procedures.