

1995 offered 28 blocks (18 onshore and 10 offshore) for Exploration of Oil and Gas under the Joint Venture Exploration Programme. The last date for receipt of bids was 15th September, 1995. A total of 22 bids have been received from 12 Indian and 10 foreign companies for 7 blocks. In the contracts signed under this programme, the national Oil companies viz ONGC/OIL will take a participating interest of between 25-40% from the beginning of the contract. The Exploration period will be for a maximum of 6 years.

(c) Bid evaluation is in process.

[English]

Losses of Subsidiaries of CIL

*64. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd., which have been incurring losses for the past few years ;

(b) the amount of accumulative loss incurred by each of these subsidiaries till March, 1995;

(c) the reasons for such heavy loss ;

(d) whether these Subsidiaries have been referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR); and

(e) if so, the recommendations of the BIFR in these cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Two subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) namely, the Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) have been incurring losses for some years.

(b) to (c) A statement is attached.

(d) The BCCL has made a reference to the BIFR on the 23rd of November, 1995 as per the stipulation of the Sick Industries (Special Provisions) Act.

(e) The reference is still to be taken on file by the BIFR. Hence the question of recommendations does not arise at present.

STATEMENT

The losses incurred (before and after adjustments under Coal Price Regulation Account) by these units during the last three years are given below :

(Rs. in Crores)

	Losses incurred (Before CPRA)			Losses incurred (After CPRA)		
	92-93	93-94	94-95	92-93	93-94	94-95
BCCL	370.26	341.87	560.43	(-) 73.83	(+) 21.56	(-) 154.63
ECL	354.28	477.98	575.54	(-) 17.20	(-) 70.40	(-) 108.47

The main reasons are :-

- (i) Cost of underground mining per unit is generally higher than the cost of open cast mining. In BCCL and ECL, proportion of underground production to the total production is higher than the CIL average.
- (ii) The average size of the mines in BCCL and ECL is small. The size of mine determines the economics of the production.
- (iii) Many mines in BCCL and ECL have adverse geo-mining conditions and require sand stowing. This adds to the cost of mining of coal.
- (iv) BCCL and ECL have surplus manpower and also suffer from inadequate and erratic supply of power.

India-Iran Pipeline

*65. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the report of feasibility study for Iran-India natural gas pipeline has been received ;

(b) if so, whether Pakistan will not allow this pipeline through its waters;

(c) if so, the reasons put forward by Pakistan; and

(d) the reaction of the Government of India thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Import of Petroleum Products

*66. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the import bill of petroleum products is likely to increase by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the estimated amount thereof;

(c) the total quantity of petroleum products likely to be imported by the end of 1996-97 and the value thereof; and

(d) the reasons for increase in the above imports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH