

1	2	3	4	5
7.	Kerala	1787	95	March, 1996
8.	M.P.	1171	4	1 will be provided by end of Dec., 1995 and 3 after submission of documents by the parties.
9.	Orissa	397	1	15th Jan., 1996
10.	Rajasthan	576	16	March, 1996
11.	Tamil Nadu	1864	271	March, 1996
12.	West Bengal	246	5	December, 1995
13.	MTNL, Delhi	648	36	Within one month after completion of formalities by the subscribers subject to technical feasibility.
14.	MTNL, Bombay	687	1	-do-
15.	Madras	654	20	Pending applicants will be provided telephone connections on availability of cable pairs.

[Translation]

Fire in Jharia Coal Mine

3772. SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fire broke out in Jharia coal mines in Bihar could not be controlled so far and it is fast spreading in other new coal mines.

(b) if so, the value of coal converted into ash so far by this fire; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to extinguish the fire?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) Occurrence of fires in coal mines is due to the phenomenon of spontaneous combustion which is inherent in Indian coals, the first occurrence of coalfield fire in Jharia was reported in 1916, at the time of nationalisation of Coking coal mines in 1972, 70 fires were identified. Out of the above 7 fires have been extinguished.

A precise estimate of coal reserves lost due to fires in Jharia coalfield is difficult. However, about 5 years ago the coal company had estimated that coal reserves to an extent about 37 million tonnes might have been damaged due to these fires. Value of lost reserves can be nationally put at about Rs.1700 crores.

Under the World Bank aided technical assistance project, a diagnostic study of Jharia coalfield fires is in progress. This study comprises development of detailed fire fighting programme and preparation of Environmental Management Plan for Jharia coalfield. The study is expected to be completed by mid 1996.

Allotment of Petrol Retail Outlets

3773. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of petrol retail outlets allotted out to turn in Bihar during the last three years;

(b) the criteria laid down for such allotments; and