

(a) whether the Doordarshan relay kendras in Bihar are functioning properly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the construction work of T.V. relay centre at Gumla and Lohardaga in Bihar has been completed; and

(e) if so, the time by which the relay work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) to (c) The overall performance of the TV transmitters in Bihar is reported to be satisfactory. The complaints of malfunctioning of the transmitters, whenever received, are promptly attended to and defects duly rectified.

(d) and (e) Low Power TV transmitters (LPTs) are already operational at Gumla and Lohardaga in Bihar since 29.12.1994 and 20.10.1994 respectively.

[English]

Pollution in the Coal Areas

3861. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing pollution in the coal area of Asansol-Raniganj-Durgapur;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of lives lost, lands degraded, people becoming shelterless and jobless, people rehabilitated so far;

(c) whether any Action Plan has been formulated for this purpose;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to implement the Action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (e) In the Asansol-Raniganj-Durgapur belt there are a large number of industries like steel plants, power plants, coke ovens, chemical factories, cement factories, brick kilns and stone crushers etc. which are contributing towards pollution in that area. In so far as coal mining activities are concerned, there has been no significant increase in air and water pollution in the area. The adverse effect to some extent has been in respect of degradation of land. Some areas in the Raniganj coalfield are prone to subsidence mainly due to unscientific mining carried out under shallow cover in the past before the nationalisation of coal mines.

With the implementation of various environmental protective measures like land reclamation, afforestation,

control of air and water pollution etc. efforts are made to carry out coal mining in an environmentally compatible manner. According to the procedure laid down by the Government, Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) are required to be formulated as an integral part of coal projects. These EMPs not only incorporate the various environmental protection measures but also include adequate measures for rehabilitation of land oustees. The implementation of EMPs are monitored by the coal companies and also at the Government level.

In order to deal with the problem of subsidence the actual implementation of subsidence control measures can be undertaken with active association of the State Government/District authorities for dealing inter-alia with the problem of shifting and relocation of the population living in the unsafe areas. It was suggested to the Govt. of West Bengal that the existing Asansol Durgapur Development Authority (ADDA) which was set up under the Town and Country (Planning and Development) Act, 1979 of West Bengal could be strengthened and authorised as the executive agency for the restoration works. It was also suggested that technical inputs for survey, planning and designing and preparation of schemes/projects can be provided by Coal India Ltd./ Eastern Coalfields Ltd. by placing technical personnel at ADDA. Decision in this behalf has not been finalised. However, the Coal Company of their own are carrying out stabilisation measures at a few selected unstable locations which are primarily aimed at developing the technique of hydro-pneumatic sand stowing for stabilisation of subsidence prone areas which are otherwise not accessible.

Handing over of Coal Mining Blocks

3862. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India had been requesting Coal India Limited (CIL) and his Ministry for handing over some mining blocks to them;

(b) if so, the concrete proposals submitted by SAIL in this regard;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Screening Committee under his Ministry has handed over or proposed to hand over coal mining blocks in the Jharia Coal Fields to SAIL for development; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Based on the proposal received from the Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL) the Screening Committee functioning in the Ministry of Coal has already identified and offered four coking coal blocks for captive development by SAIL. SAIL has also submitted a request for identification of non-coking coal blocks for coal supply to their captive power plants. Action on this request has been initiated.