

- (ii) Replacement of faulty battery sets and provisioning of solar panels at places where these have not been provided so far.
- (iii) Reliable transmission media is being inducted in the rural areas.

[Translation]

Coking Coal to Bihar

3873. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the existing criterion for ensuring regular supply of coking coal to urban rural areas in the country;

(b) the details of quantities of coking coal allocated to Bihar during the last three years;

(c) the existing provisions for appointment of suppliers of coking coal in each of the districts of the State; and

(d) the number of suppliers of coking coal in each district of Bihar and the total number thereof in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Presumably, the Hon'ble Member is referring to supply of soft coke for domestic use in the rural areas in the country. Soft coke is allocated by the Government on monthly basis to various States/Union Territories after taking into consideration its availability. With the availability of soft coke having come down considerably, the allocations are primarily made to the States where the soft coke is produced, namely Bihar and West Bengal. Small quantities are also allocated to the adjoining States. Higher allocations of CILCOKE are being made so that the total availability of soft coke and CILCOKE for domestic purpose for various States/Union Territories remains unaffected.

(b) The quantity of soft coke and CILCOKE allocated to Bihar during the last three years was as under :

(In 000 Tonnes)

1993-94	Jan., 94	Jan., 95	April, 95			
upto	to	to	to			
Dec., 93	Dec., 94	March, 95	March, 96			
Soft	Soft	CIL	Soft	CIL	Soft	CIL
Coke	Coke	COKE	Coke	COKE	Coke	COKE
60	40	20	10	50	10	50

(c) The Office of the Coal Controller has reported that appointment of handling agent/supplier of cooking coal i.e. soft coke in the state of Bihar is done on the basis of recommendation of the Government of Bihar.

(d) There is one handling agent/supplier for each division/commissionery. Presently the total number of

handling agents/suppliers in the State of Bihar are 14 (fourteen).

[English]

Stock of Petroleum Products

3874. SHRI PROBIN DEKA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to maintain a stock of petroleum products for 45 days instead of 30 days; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government propose to develop 45 days tankage cover for mass consumption products like kerosene, diesel and petrol.

(b) The Government have approved additional 5.14 Million KL tankage under the 8th Plan, which is under implementation. Additional tankage projects in hill areas and Jammu & Kashmir are also being implemented.

[Translation]

Revision of Rate of Royalty

3875. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States from which the Union Government have received the proposals regarding the "upward revision of rate of royalty on lignite" as on 30 September, 1995;

(b) whether proposal from Gujarat Government has also been received in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of the progress made in this regard so far, especially in the case of Gujarat State; and

(e) the reasons for the delay in it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) Proposals for upward revision of rate of royalty on lignite as on date have been received from the State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

(c) The Government of Gujarat have requested for fixation of royalty rate on lignite produced in that State at Rs. 45 to 70 per tonne from the present Rs.2.50 per tonne.

(d) and (e) The Study Group constituted to consider the question has met and is collecting necessary data in order to make its recommendation.