

(e) Continuous upgradation of tourism infrastructure in the country and strengthening of marketing efforts in the overseas markets are the steps being taken to increase the tourist inflow to the country every year.

Commissioning of Opencast Coal Mine at Sonepur Bazari 'A'

214. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether commissioning of opencast coal mine of Sonepur Bazari 'A' has been delayed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the extent of cost overrun on account of the delay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c) The Sonepur Bazari 'A' opencast project of Eastern Coalfields Limited was sanctioned by the Government in July, 1985 at a capital cost of Rs. 192.96 crores. The implementation of the project has suffered on account of problems of land acquisition and associated issues related to rehabilitation of land oustees. After protracted dialogue with the Government of West Bengal the land was made available to ECL in November, 1990 and work on the project has now started. The Revised Cost Estimates of the project is no placed at Rs. 453.91 crores. The project is no expected to achieve its rated production of 3 m.t.p.a. by March, 1997.

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Production of Washed Coal

215. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the month-wise production of washed coal during 1990-91 by each of the subsidiaries of the Coal India Limited indicating targets and actuals;

(b) whether there has been shortfalls in production from targets; and

(c) if so, the reasons for shortfalls and the steps taken for improving production?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) The information is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) Following are the reasons for shortfall in production of washed coal during 1990-91:—

(i) Shortage and frequent trippings of power in the Eastern Region. The power supply was disrupted on 25th-26th June, 1990 as a result of a serious failure in the eastern grid. Power supply position continued to remain unsatisfactory till about October, 1990. The situation got worsened due to incessant rains during that period. After improvement in power supply position, the production started picking up from November, 1990 onwards.

(ii) Frequent stoppage of work due to law and order problems created by bandhs, anti-reservation and other agitations.