

[*English*]

**India's relations with Afghanistan**

4571. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state the steps taken by the Government to strengthen further the bilateral relationship with Afghanistan after the withdrawal of Soviet troops from the country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): It has been Government's constant endeavour to strengthen the traditionally close relations which have always existed between India and Afghanistan. There has been a regular, high-level exchange of visits between our two countries and agreements have been concluded to promote cooperation in the economic, cultural and other fields. India has also been extending economic assistance to Afghanistan which, inter alia, includes relief assistance for refugee rehabilitation, deputation of experts and scholarships for Afghan nationals. Government have also recently arranged to supply 50,000 tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan on a grant basis.

[*Translation*]

**Setting up of workshop at Chimur,  
Maharashtra**

4572. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the mining works in all the collieries of Chandrapur district to Maharashtra are being conducted under Wardha Coalfields;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have received any proposal for setting up of a workshop at Chimur in Chandrapur district; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. The mining operations in all the collieries of Chandrapur District of Maharashtra come under Wardha Valley Coalfield. A reference has been received from the Hon'ble Member regarding shifting of the Central Workshop Chandrapur presently sited at Tadali to Chimur. The location of the Workshop at Tadali is central keeping in view the needs of the coal mines in Ballarpur, Chandrapur and Wani areas. More projects are likely to come up in these areas in future also. Therefore shifting of the Workshop from Tadali to Chimur is not feasible.

[*English*]

**Assistance to Buro Paddy Cultivators  
in Assam**

4573. SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the "Buro Paddy" a major agriculture product of the Karimganj district of Assam, is damaged every year by floods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to assist these farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) In Karimganj district "Boro Paddy" is damaged due to floods whenever floods occur early in April-May.

(b) and (c). During 1990-91, No damage to the crop occurred. However, during 1991-

92 an area of about 4655 ha. of "Boro Paddy" was damaged due to floods. Under flood relief 1212 quintals of seeds of high yielding varieties of paddy was distributed to all the affected farmers of Karimganj district involving Rs. 7.63 lakhs.

#### **Involvement of Private Sector in Mining of Asbestos and Grey Barytes**

4574. SHRI SAI PRATHAP ANNAYAGARI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend mining of asbestos and grey barytes to private sector;

(b) the areas/locations where asbestos and barytes are available and the performance of Public Sector units mining in these areas;

(c) the sick public Sector units in the mining of asbestos and barytes and the reasons for their sickness; and

(d) whether the Government are contemplating to invite private sector to take-over or jointly operate these Public Sector units running into losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d). Information is

being collected and will be laid the Table of the House.

#### **Utilisation of Natural Gas In Coastal Andhra Pradesh**

4575. SHRI B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of natural gas available in Coastal Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether any agreement has been made for the utilisation of such natural gas by the public and private sectors;

(c) if so, the quantum thereof;

(d) whether there is any proposal to reduce the price of gas per metric tonne in order to induce more industries to tap the unutilised gas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR): (a) to (c). Estimated 3.2 million standard cubic meters per day (MMSCMD) from the K.G. basin by 1994-95. Allocations of gas have been made to the following:-

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#### **MMSCMD**

1. Delta paper Mills	0.028
2. Andhra Sugars, Tanuku	0.016
3. Southern Magnesium	0.006
4. Southern Pesticides	0.006
5. Klayman Porcelian	0.003

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