

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:-

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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6.	APSEB, Vijjeshwaram		0.4	
7.	Nagarjuna Fertiliser Ltd., Kakinada		1.3	
8.	Gowthami Solvent		0.005	
9.	Coastal Agro Industries		0.005	
10.	A P Bagasse products		0.009	
11.	A P Sugars		0.006	
12.	Kirloskar Services (only for 24 months)		0.018	
13.	LPG		0.32	
14.	NTPC, Kakinada		1.5	
15.	APSEB, Jegrupudu		1.5	
16.	Ganesh petrochemicals		0.34 (in principle)	
17.	New Fertilizer Plant		0.50	

Of the above, Gas Supply Contracts have been signed with the parties at S. No. 1-7.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Mahali Attack on arecanut Palms

4576. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHRA MURTHY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an unprecedented attack of mahali, a disease affecting arecanut palms had badly hit Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to depute a team of agricultural

experts to Karnataka to find out the cause of this disease in arecanut palms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. As reported by the State Government of Karnataka, the attack of Mahali disease also called as 'Koleroga' caused by a fungus has affected arecanut crop in Karnataka, especially in Dakshina Kannada district due to unusually heavy and continuous rain during June, July and August, this year. The moist atmosphere and low sunshine during the rainy period accelerate the spread of the disease.

It is estimated that a total area of 10,000 ha. had the serious disease infection ranging from 30 to 50%, necessitating plant pro-