

this question. I am sorry, Madam.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, I am disallowing this question.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO: Mr. Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister has answered very technically. It is very obvious that the hon. Minister has asked about the shortage of LPG cylinders but only the word 'cylinder' is used in the question. The hon. Member actually wanted to know, there is terrible shortage of LPG and also demand-supply gap, what are the steps taken by the Government and the steps envisaged by the Government to fill the demand -supply gap.

MR. SPEAKER: This point was discussed already some days back very extensively in the House.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, market is flooded with duplicate cylinders. Through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he is aware of the presence of duplicate cylinders and if so, what steps have been taken to check this malpractice? What steps have the Government taken to make the detection of duplicate cylinders possible?

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, we have what are known as marketing guidelines. There are very regular inspections by the oil companies and also surprise inspections *suo motu* as well as on the basis of complaints received from the consumers. This is an on-going process. Every single complaint is investigated into and action taken including cancellation of dealership and presentation in some cases. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Please tell us some thing about original and

duplicate cylinders... (Interruptions)... many women have lost their lives because of the duplicate cylinders... (Interruptions)...

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: The hon. lady Member has raised a question that there is a difficulty for a customer in differentiating a genuine cylinder from a spurious one. This matter has not been brought into the focus before our Minister. But we shall certainly examine and if there is any confusion in that regard, we shall not only let the hon. lady Member know how to differentiate it but also disseminate the information to the public. (Interruption)

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Sir, has the Government received any allegations regarding non-supply of LPG connections on priority basis? Hon. Members of this House have applied for LPG connections. For example, I have applied for LPG connection and I have been waiting for more than 15 days but no connection is given to me. LPG connections are given by back door methods. Will the hon. Minister say as to what steps are taken in this regard? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am disallowing this question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. KRISHAN KUMAR: Sir, as there is confusion about the MPs recommendations, I want to clarify the position. All applications for out of turn connections recommended by the MPs are being speedily cleared the honourable Cabinet Minister has given the deadline as two weeks and that is being adhered to. So, all applications which are within the quota of MPs are being cleared within the time limit.

[Translation]

Coal Extraction

*654. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the locations of coal mines in the country;
- (b) the total quantity of coal extracted per day from these mines;
- (c) the profits earned from coal extracted from these mines during 1990-91; and
- (d) the names of new places where exploration work for coal is being undertaken?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (d): A Statement has been laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

- a) Coal mines in the country are located in the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya.
- b) In the year 1990-91 the average daily production of coal from Coal India Limited mines has been around 6,23,700 tonnes and 57,875 tonnes from Singareni Collieries Company Limited.
- c) Accounts for the year 1990-91 of CIL and its subsidiaries are presently under audit and the position relating to the profits earned would be known on completion and receipt on the audited accounts.
- d) Geological Survey of

India is carrying out regional exploration for locating coal resources in the various parts of the country on a continuous basis. G.S.I. have deployed 51 drills for carrying out regional exploration to locate new coal areas in the States of West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh. To supplement the regional exploration being carried out by G.S.I. Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. (Public Sector Undertaking) have also deployed 22 drills for promotional regional drilling in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the demand for coal is not being met with. Sometimes industries receiving power from thermal power plants and the thermal power plants itself face closure. There are sufficient coal reserves in the country. Through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister the schemes of the Government to streamline coal distribution so as to meet the demand for coal in the country? In addition, I want to know whether there is any scheme for the import of coal to meet occasional shortage of coal in the country?

[*English*]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Actually, there is no shortage of coal in the country. As of now, we have got a stock of around 33 million tonnes. Our main problem has been the transportation of coal to the various sectors. We first try to meet the require-

ments of the core sector and then the requirements of the non-core sectors. I do admit that there has been a shortfall in the supply because of the transportation problems. We are trying to sort out all these problems with the Railways. We hope to improve the position in the near future.

As far as import is concerned, as of now, we do not allow the import of non-coking coal.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that there is no shortage of coal and the exploration work is in progress. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any imported technique is being used in exploration work so as to meet the demand of coal fully? At the same time, I would like to know whether the Government has thought about alternatives to coal in the event of its reserves getting exhausted?

[*English*]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: We are going in for the application of modern technology including foreign technology. If we have to improve our productivity, we have to go for more and more modern technology. But while doing so, I want to assure the House that we will ensure that the workers are not affected by the introduction of new technology. As far as the exhaustion of our coal reserves is concerned, we do not foresee any such danger, because as on 1 January 1991, we have an estimated reserve of 192 billion tonnes of coal, which should be able to meet the requirements of our country for the next 130 to 150 years.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: Since there is a shortage of coking coal, will the Government decide to set up washeries? Unless we set up new washeries, we have to import more and more coking coal. I want to know whether the Government has decided to start new washeries.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: There is real

shortage in the production of coking coal. I must admit that perhaps we have not paid much attention to the production of coking coal in the past. It is not only the establishment of new washeries which is important, but there is also need for opening of new mines because the ash content in our coking coal is very high. We have been trying to open new mines. The third thing which is very important relates to the fire that is prevailing in Jharia and East, West and other parts of Madhya Pradesh where coking coal is available. We are looking for technology to stop the fire which has been going on for the last 80 years. We are hopeful to get that technology very soon.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Is it a fact that there is a shortfall in the production of both coking coal and non-coking coal due to non-implementation of projects which were undertaken during the Seventh Five Year Plan? Since there are enough reserves of coal in the country and since there is a mushrooming growth in the activities of illegal mining, which should be curbed, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to have new projects particularly in the Eastern Coal Fields area, where the quality of coal is very good.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, it is true that there is a lot of delay in the implementation of the projects as a result of which not only the production gets affected but it also involves a lot of additional money in the form of escalation cost. We are trying to arrest that and I have been applying my mind to this problem for the last few days.

As far as illegal mining is concerned, I think we have to do it in close cooperation with the respective State Governments. We are in touch with them.

Thirdly, as far as the new projects are concerned, I remember - I have not exact figure - that we have sanctioned 8 new projects for E.C.L. this year with an estimated investment of Rs. 912 crores. I have myself gone to Calcutta to meet the Minister of Revenue and officers concerned so that

the revenue clearance and other clearances are expedited. I am happy that the State Government is cooperating with us in this regard.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHEE TINDIVANAM: Sir, we are informed that the high quality Singareni coal alone is required for Mettur Thermal Plant in Tamil Nadu. There is no regular supply of Sulgareni coal and most of the time we do not get the usual supply as a result of which the power supply to the industries in Tamil Nadu suffer.

I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government will come forward to compensate the non-availability of high quality coal which is available in Singareni alone by allowing the State Government to import coal from the foreign countries especially from Australia where it is much cheap.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, Singareni has been a very unfortunate experience for us. This was designed to meet the requirement of the entire Southern region. Since this Singareni Colliery has not been performing well and they are much much below their production target, the entire southern region and our country faces the shortage of coal. We are trying to help the Southern region by diverting some of the coal from the Western region and also South-Eastern region. We have been trying to meet their requirement but we are not in a position to meet their requirement to the full extent. I quite understand that.

As far as the import of high quality of coal is concerned, as of now, except for the cooking coal, we do not allow import of other type of coal.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Madhya Pradesh is a State having sufficient coal reserves. I would like to know from the hon. Minister that which are the new places and new sources identified by the drilling job being done by the Geological Survey of India and Mineral Exploration Corporation; and also the quantity of coal

expected from such sources? Which are the places where this work is going on at present?

[*English*]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: In Madhya Pradesh a lot of drilling operations are going on. I don't know the exact number because I have the total but not State-wise figure. Within one year the additional reserves which have been discovered are estimated as 4404 million tonnes which means that the drilling activities are on the full swing.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: The coal production in the country is increasing every year. It is surprising to know that the production target in E.C.L. for the year 1991-92 has been reduced compared to the year 1990-91.

Since, we are getting the coking coal from outside for our Steel Plant, whether it is possible to have more washeries to reduce the ash content. We should also explore the possibility of getting Assam and Meghalaya coal which I understand is a good quality coal.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: It is true that the production of coal in E.C.L. is coming down. One of the reasons has been that the existing mines' reserves are getting exhausted. That is why we will go in for new projects in the ECL. That is what precisely I said it a little earlier. We have eight new projects with an investment of Rs. 912 crore.

As far as the North-Eastern Region and particularly Assam is concerned. We are told by our scientists that in Assam and Meghalaya, coking coal reserves are there to the extent of 10 per cent. We may be able to meet the requirements of these Steel Plants. But we have a lot of transportation problem in the North-East and we are trying to appoint a small Committee to look into that.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARADHAN RAI: Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister said that there is no pro-

duction of coal from E.C.L. Mines. We don't agree with that. We believe that there is nearly 27 thousand million metric tonnes of coal reserve upto a depth of 600 to 1200 meters and it is not sinking down yet. The Government is not making proper arrangements for its extraction and safety because of which the coal is catching fire. The land belonging to farmers is sinking down because of unscientific and slotter mining. The Government had opened 36 mines in West Bengal and it was promised that 20 thousand unemployed people would be provided jobs in addition to rehabilitation of the people. Neither that was done nor were they rehabilitated.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question.

SHRI HARADHAN RAI: There was a package deal of Coal India Limited with the West Bengal Government. In this connection an agreement was signed to take scientific measures to prevent it and in the agreement there is a provision to reclaim the land after mining of coal and taking it to OCP. In the Sonpur Bazari Package there is a provision that the affected people will be rehabilitated. The family members of the affected people would be provided either with employment or compensatory allowance.

MR. SPEAKER: Ask the question, please.

SHRI HARADHAN RAI: My question is that whether the Government is going to follow the package and provide employment to the unemployed people. Secondly, one of my friends has said that machines are being imported from foreign countries for use in the coal mines, but their use is only 30 per cent. What is the use of importing machinery when 70 per cent of the money gets blocked? The Government should implement Sonpur Bazari Project and Storing Rehabilitation Programme and fulfill the requirements of land.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Have you understood the question?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, the Hon. Member is referring to an agreement. We have a number of projects and a number of agreements.

As far as the question of rehabilitation of the displaced persons is concerned – I had an occasion last time to inform the august House – we are coming out with a new package of rehabilitation of the displaced persons which in my view is a very-very good one and I am sure the hon. House will be very happy. I hope to announce it within this Session.

Technical Collaboration with Foreign Company

*655

+
DR. A.K. PATEL:
SHRI SHANKERSINH
VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have entered into a technical collaboration with the Rockwell Incorporated International of USA and Hitachi of Japan for production of coaches and traction motors respectively;

(b) if so, the terms of the collaboration;

(c) the precise need to go in for the collaboration; and

(d) whether know-how for production of such coaches and traction motors is available within the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALIKARJUN): (a) Railways had entered into technical collaboration with M/s. Hitachi for production of traction motors of Electric Locomotives.

(b) Main terms of collaboration were:

Supply of design, drawings and manufacturing technology of more powerful traction motors with higher class of insulation and Supply of