

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (d). The National Water Policy states that the river basin be taken as a unit of development. In keeping with the policy, the Central Government favours setting up of Joint river basin Authorities for development of inter-State rivers. In type of Joint Authorities suggested are, however, required to come through the joint efforts of the State Governments and the Central Government. The issue of formation of Joint Control Board of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh came up for discussion in their bilateral meeting on 29.5.1991 at Bhopal. The concept was appreciated and the Uttar Pradesh Government agreed to react the proposal sent by Madhya Pradesh Government in this regard. In the meantime, it was decided to activate the existing Technical Committee.

[English]

Emission of Coal dust from Bokaro Thermal Power Station

2353. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Coalfields Limited in Kathara Area of Bihar has made any complaint against the emission of harmful coal dust from Bokaro Thermal Power Station (Damodary Vally Corporation);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Parity Between Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Commodities

2354. KUMARI VIMLA VERMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to maintain parity between the prices of the agricultural and non-agricultural commodities;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have sought the view of the Planning Commission in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d). The Government had revised the terms of reference of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in 1980 to take into account the changes in terms of trade between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors. Accordingly, CACP take into account the terms of trade, while formulating the recommendations on the price policy for major agricultural commodities.

LPG Agencies in Gujarat

2355. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are demands from Jamnagar district of Gujarat for allotment of more LPG agencies and petrol/diesel retail outlets;

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) the number of LPG agencies and petrol/diesel retail outlets opened in Jamnagar district during 1988 to 1990; and

(d) the target for the opening and allotment of the same December, 1991?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHANKUMAR): (a) to (d). Proposals are received regularly for opening more petrol/diesel retail outlets and LPG agencies in different places of the country including Jamnagar district of Gujarat. The oil companies on the basis of market surveys, products availability etc. include such places in the marketing plans.

During 1988 to 1990, 3 retail outlets and 3 LPG agencies were opened in Jamnagar district.

Levy of Cess on Coal

2356. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of royalty on coal, as revised recently;

(b) the states of negotiations with the State Governments conferred on the question of levy of cess by State Governments;

(c) the amount payable on account of coal cess by the coal producing companies until the order of the Supreme Court, State wise; and

(d) the pit-head price of coal of various grades, on April, 1990 and April, 1991?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) The rate of royalty on coal as revised with effect from 1.8.1991

except for the States of West Bengal and Assam are as follows:-

<i>Grade of Coal</i>	<i>Rs./tonne</i>
Steel Grade I&II	150
Washery Grade I	150
Washery Grade II&III	120
Washery Grade IV	75
Semi Coking Grade I&II	120
Non Coking Grade A/B	120
Non Coking Grade 'C'	75
Non Coking Grade D/E	45
Non Coking Grade F/G	25

(b) The question of negotiations with the State Government on the subject of retention of cess levied by them does not arise for the reasons that the Supreme Court themselves have allowed the States concerned to retain the cess on coal collected by them upto the dates indicated below:-

Government of Bihar	4.4.1991
Government of Orissa	22.12.89
Government of Madhya Pradesh	28.3.1986

The State Governments whose legislations imposing cess on coal have been struck down cannot levy/collect the cess from the dates decided by the courts in this regard.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) The pithead price of coal remained