

that the cost of the coking coal being imported from Australia and China comes to about Rs. Two thousand to Rs. Three thousand per tonne. And as per the survey conducted by BCCL, if coal is extracted from Jharia and Jaridih block, it will cost not more than Rs. one thousand per metric tonne. Hence if coal is extracted from there, we can manage to save the foreign exchange. He, at present, is referring to 1988-89.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mandal ji, I have given you permission to ask question. You are taking time of others, therefore, please ask your question.

**SHRI SURAJ MANDAL:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking the question only. My submission is that we have been importing coal since 1985; while we can extract indigenous coal at the rate of Rs. 1000/- per tonne. Coking Coal is available in the second layer and it costs merely Rs. 1000/- per tonne. My question is what are the reasons for importing the coking coal at the rate of Rs. 3000/- per tonne when we can produce it on cheaper rates. My other submission is that BCCL and CCL have set the target of 18,000 and 9000 tonnes of coal per day respectively.

But this target is not being achieved and the money is being wasted on the officers. In the circumstances, I would like to ask from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to start production of Coking Coal in Jharia and Jaridih to save the foreign exchange.

[*English*]

**SHRI P.A. SANGMA:** Sir, the reason for our resorting to import is very simple and that is because we cannot produce as per our requirement so we have to import it from other countries. I do agree with the hon. Member that every effort should be made to make our country self sufficient in the production of coking coal and that is our aim.

As I have already stated, we have about 41 on going projects costing about Rs. 900 crores. We hope that the production of cok-

ing coal will improve substantially during the 8th Five Year Plan. We are going to make special efforts to increase the production of coking coal in the North-eastern States. Though we have huge resources of coking coal in Meghalya, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, so far we did not have a thrust in the North-eastern regions. Now, we are taking up three projects in the north-eastern regions. One is in Assam which is Borgolai and another one is Nanchik in Arunachal Pradesh.

During the 8th Five Year Plan we will make every effort to see that our production of coking coal is stepped up substantially as a result of which our import will come down to a great extent.

[*Translation*]

#### Industrial Pollutants

\*206. **SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTM:**  
**SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:**

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted about the mill workers who suffer due to the ill-effects of cotton dust, smoke and acids emitted by industries in big cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P.A. SANGMA):  
(a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

Cotton dust, mists and fumes of acids and certain constituents of smoke such as Carbon Monoxide, Nitrogen-Dioxide, Nitric

Oxide and Sulphur Dioxide, when inhaled, are harmful to the health of workers. To protect the workers from excessive exposure to the above mentioned pollutants in the work environment, permissible limits of exposure have been laid down in the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948.

2 According to the information available, some studies among textile workers who are exposed to cotton dust have been conducted in the past by the Central Labour Institute (CLI), Bombay and the National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH), Ahmedabad. The study carried out by the Central Labour Institute in collaboration with the KEM Hospital and the MGM Hospital, Bombay revealed varying percentage of incidence of Byssinosis among the workers. A survey made by the NIOH also revealed incidence of Byssinosis in 6.3 percent of the workers in the spinning section. Byssinosis is also a notifiable disease under the Factories Act.

3 Some studies made by the CLI in factories involving electroplating had revealed that the levels of fumes of chromic acid in the work environment were within the permissible limits of exposure.

4 Legally, the occupier of the factory is responsible for ensuring compliance of the statutory provisions. The overall enforcement under the Act lies with the concerned State Governments/Administrations of Union Territories.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Mr Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know the number of mills located in the midst of dense population in the country which adversely affect the people and the steps the Government is going to take against such mill-owners? The reply should be to the point and not an evasive one.

[English]

SHRIPABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Mr Speaker, Sir, the question of mills causing

environmental pollution is being looked after by the Environment Ministry. We in the Labour Ministry look after the safety of the workers inside the factory premises. Sir, I do not have the exact figure of such mills causing pollution.

MR SPEAKER: I hope you will collect the figure and send it to the hon. Member.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: I haven't got the reply to the point.

MR SPEAKER: It might be with the Ministry of Environment.

SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: Is the Government considering to locate those mills outside the dense population and to encourage the mill owners to install such equipments as may check the probable diseases?

[English]

SHRIPABAN SINGH GHATOWAR: Sir, I have already stated that we in the Labour Ministry do not see to it that the industries are set up in the rural areas. (Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER: He is also looking after the Labour Ministry.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, safety and occupational diseases of the industrial workers is certainly a matter of concern for all of us. I must frankly admit that unfortunately, we have not been able to ascertain the gravity of the situation. As we have stated in the main answer, a study was conducted by the Central Labour Institute way back in 1976. That is number one.

Secondly, a sample survey was done by the National Institute of Occupational Disease that was from 1983 to 1986. Beyond this, we have not been able to ascertain anything regarding this big problem.

In 1987, we decided that the ESESIC should also undertake this work but they have been assigned with the work of treating the patients - the industrial workers - having this occupational disease

We have established one hospital in Madras and another hospital will be commissioned in Delhi. We are thinking of establishing hospitals in Calcutta and Bombay. But, Sir, frankly I admit it

MR SPEAKER The question was, do you have any plan to shift the industries from the heart of the city to outside?

SHRI P A SANGMA No. That does not come under our purview

MR SPEAKER Mr Ahamad

SHRI E AHAMAE I would like to ask one general question to the Industries Minister

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR Sir

MR SPEAKER I am sorry. Now, Shri Rajesh Kumar

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR Mr Speaker, Sir, it has been stated in the reply given by the Government that a survey will be conducted regarding the workers. It has been stated that a lung disease has been found during the survey. I would like to know from the Government the number of workers who have been affected by this disease and what are the state wise details of such big mills and how this disease can be cured?

[*English*]

MR SPEAKER If you have the statistics, you please supply. Otherwise, you collect the statistics and give it to him.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) Sir, I will collect the

statistics and supply it to the hon. Member. But the State governments are the enforcing agencies in this respect.

SHRI E AHAMED I would like to ask a general question affecting not only the mill workers but also the factory workers in the country.

Sir, there are lime stone kilns in the factories where the labourers are working. They also have health hazards. Only very recently, a very prominent magazine of the country the *Frontline* has brought out certain pictures.

MR SPEAKER Will the former Industries Minister please ask the question?

SHRI E AHAMED Sir, it is a matter of grave concern to the nation, that is why I am asking this question.

MR SPEAKER Mr Ahamed, you please understand that time is very limited. The number of Members is very large and you shall have to be very brief.

SHRI E AHAMED I would be very brief. I would like to know whether the Government have any comprehensive project or scheme which will help the labourers to be safe from these hazards when they are working in the factories especially with lime stone kilns as also the mill workers. If so what is that proposal that the Government is going to consider or considering both for safety and health of the workers?

SHRI P A SANGMA As my Deputy Minister has already stated that all these are governed by the Factories Act of 1948. We are aware of the occupational diseases that are there. But the competent authority to implement the Factories Act including the prevention of the occupational diseases is the State Government and not the Central Government.

However, I think, we should try to do something. I have proposed that at very soon we will convene a Meeting of the Ministry of

Industry, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Urban Development and we will try and discuss this problem with them.

[*Translation*]

### Cement Plants in Rajasthan

\* 207 SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state.

(a) the number of lime-stone mines leased to the Cement Corporation of India in Chittorgarh (Rajasthan),

(b) whether C C I has submitted a number of projects to the Union Government for setting up of cement plants in Rajasthan to utilise the lime-stone obtained from these mines,

(c) if so, the details thereof along with the capacity of each project,

(d) whether the Government have accorded approval to these projects,

(e) if so, the details thereof,

(f) if not, the reasons therefor, and

(g) the time by which the approval is likely to be accorded?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P K THUNGON) (a) Cement Corporation of India have leases of two limestone mining areas in District Chittorgarh

(b) and (c) CCI had submitted a proposal for setting up a one million tonne per annum cement plant at Shambhupura, District Chittorgarh Rajasthan, to utilise the limestone from these mines

(d) to (g) No, Sir The proposal could not be approved because of constraint of funds

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA Mr Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to know from the hon Minister the date since when these projects are under consideration of the Government of India for approval and what was the capacity of these plants? This is my first question Please give a reply

[*English*]

SHRI P K THUNGON In fact, the CCI conducted a survey in an area of about 20 48 sq km, and after that, about 9 87 sq km was investigated, and after that, it was revealed that about 96 06 million tonnes of limestone was available Therefore, in 1983, CCI submitted a proposal for setting up a one million tonne plant in that area, after that, in the Seventh Plan, as I have already stated, due to constraint of funds, this could not be set up However, it will be of use for the hon Member that a proposal has been again sent to the Planning Commission, and the Planning Commission is considering it whether we will be able to set up a plant in the Eighth Five Year Plan

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA Mr Speaker, Sir, I have specifically asked the hon Minister the date since when these projects are under consideration of the Government of India for approval He has not replied to it

MR SPEAKER It will be better if you don't seek a reply to such a question This is not so You are unnecessarily missing your chance of asking a second question

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA My chance is missed in the sense that the Rajasthan Government has sent projects to the Government of India

MR SPEAKER Bhargavaji, I am trying to help you, Please come to the second question He will provide you the statistics