

(c) if so, the time by which these mines are proposed to be opened,

(d) the number of labourers working in said mines,

(e) whether any schemes has been formulated to rehabilitate the workers rendered jobless, and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S B NYAMA GOUDA) (a) to (f) Closed collieries fall in two categories

(1) Those collieries which were taken over as closed and still continue to remain closed

(2) Those collieries which were taken over as working or which were opened after nationalisation but which are now closed

REASONS FOR COLLIERIES OF CATEGORY I CONTINUING TO REMAIN CLOSED ARE

(1) Those could not be merged /re grouped or amalgamated to form a reconstituted mine

(2) Lack of infrastructural facilities on account of geographical location

(3) Isolated patch deposit with very small reserves and seasonal workability

(4) Insufficient geological data available for such mines

(5) Non availability of reliable working plans in respect of old workings

(6) Not viable techno economically

REASONS FOR CLOSURE OF COLLIERIES OF CATEGORY II ARE

(i) Exhaustion of extractable reserves

(ii) Highly uneconomic working without any potential for future viability

(iii) Aderse geo-mining conditions

(iv) Safety considerations

Efforts are being made to re-open such of the closed collieries where intensive exploration efforts have given indications of their potentiality for commercial exploitation

Recently Government of Bihar has constituted a Joint Inspection Committee to study the feasibility of working the closed collieries in Bihar. The Committee would submit its report to Government of Bihar. It may be possible to indicate if and when these mines will be reopened for working. In case of collieries of category II Coal India Limited rehabilitates the Workers by redployment etc. Since these collieries are closed the question of number of labourers working in them does not arise

Manufacture of Superior Quality of Coal at Rajarappa Coal Projects

2530 SHRI RAJESH KUMAR Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state

(a) whether superior quality coal has been manufactured at Rajarappa Coal Projects with the help of washing machine,

(b) whether the affluent from the coal machine is released in the Damodar river which causes pollution

(c) if so whether any action has been taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to control the pollution and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMA-GOUDA): (a) Rajrappa Project is an integrated project comprising of an open cost mine and a pitheau washery with a rated capacity of 3.00 million tonnes per annum of raw coking coal. Medium coking coal is washed at Hajarappa washery to produce clean coal with ash% in the range of 17.5% which is supplied to Steel plants.

(b) to (d). Rajarappa Washery is designed as a closed water circuit plant from where no effluent is discharged in normal circumstances. It is only during prolonged failure or other unforeseen interruption in the normal working of the plant, some effluent may overflow. However, there are series of ponds made for collection of effluent when discharged. The Effluent is, thereafter collected and reclaimed from these ponds. To improve the recovery of effluents, following actions are being taken by the Central Coalfields Limited:

(i) Construction of three slurry ponds for recovery of solids from the effluents;

(ii) Extension of slurry treatment circuit with addition of thicker floatation machines and filters; and

(iii) Action has also been taken to pro-

vide cure shovel for the mechanised recovery of dry slurry from the slurry ponds.

Assistance to co-operatives for Providing Essential Commodities

2531. **SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:
SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI:**

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government provide financial assistance to the cooperatives for providing essential commodities to the urban consumers,

(b) if so, the funds provided to each of the States during the last three years; and

(c) the details of the co-operative activities in which the said funds were utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Statements indicating the funds provided to each of the States during the last three years alongwith the details of the Coop. activities in which the said funds were utilised during the year 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 are given in the Statement I and II.