

NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) and (b) The relevant selection guidelines stipulate that the annual income of a candidate (under all categories) and his family/as defined in the guidelines) should not be in excess of Rs. 24,000/-. The Oil Selection Boards make the selections in this background, keeping in view the information relating to loans/sources of financing etc. furnished in the prescribed form by the applicants and having regard to the Reserve Bank of India Scheme for Loans upto 75% of the capital expenditure to selected candidates under the Social Objective Categories. Business ability and other relevant factors are also taken into account by the Boards in selecting the most suitable candidate. The same procedure and criteria have been observed by the Board in making selection for petrol/diesel retail outlets in Basti.

(c) and (d) A stipulation exists in the dealership agreement that the dealer will be a working dealer. Besides periodical inspections by the oil companies, any complaints about benami operations are looked into and appropriate action is taken.

[English]

Introduction of result-oriented culture in the functioning of the mining sector

3402. **SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY**: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to replace the bureaucratic culture of functioning in mining sector by work and result-oriented culture, as has been suggested by him in the National Seminar on Mineral Mining Technology in India organised by the Bureau of Public Enterprises; and

(b) the steps being taken to avoid cost and time over-runs and to increase the productivity and production in the mining sector?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b) Promoting accountability and result-oriented management and work culture, effecting improvement in production and productivity and preventing cost and time over-runs of projects of the coal companies, under the Ministry of Energy are a continuing exercise. The steps that are being taken in this

direction include, investment in new mines, adoption of better technology, fuller utilisation of mining capacity already created, more efficient use and better maintenance of equipment, stricter control of inventory and economy in the use of stores, better use of manpower by controlling absenteeism and enforcing discipline and identification of surplus workers and their re-deployment after suitable training & better availability of scarce inputs like explosives, timber etc., reduction of pit-head stocks by faster movement and more systematic distribution, expeditious and timely completion new projects and improvement in the law and order situation and control over mafia, activities in Bihar Bengal coalfields

National Seminar on Loss Prevention in power plants

3403. **SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY**: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations made by the two-day National Seminar on Loss Prevention in Power Plants organised recently by the Loss Prevention Association of India; and

(b) the action proposed to be taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of power plant in Andhra Pradesh

3404. **SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY**: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are favourably inclined towards the proposal of Andhra Pradesh for setting up of 200 M.W. power plant based on natural gas in the state;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the Union Government propose to reconsider the proposal in view of large quantity of gas available in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c) The