

(c) No separate guidelines have been issued to the States by the REC in this regard as the matter falls within the purview of the State Governments /State Electricity Boards.

[English]

Foreign assistance for development of Collieries in Andhra Pradesh

4629. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of collaboration agreements concluded by the Department of Coal with foreign Governments for assistance to coal industry ;

(b) whether the schemes are under implementation on schedule;

(c) the projects completed so far with foreign collaboration and the results thereof ; and

(d) whether foreign assistance is being sought for development of collieries in Andhra Pradesh to augment production and also to meet the increasing coal demand of consumers in Southern region ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Schemes for transportation of coal by Slurry Pipelines

4630. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a scheme for the transportation of coal by the slurry pipelines in the country from coalfields to the consumers ;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government in this respect ;

(c) the progress made so far ; and

(d) the time by which this system is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). The preparation of a detailed project report for a demonstration coal slurry pipeline project from New Majri Opencast mine to Chandrapur Thermal Power Station of Maharashtra State Electricity Board has been taken up. Engineers (India) Ltd. have been engaged to prepare the report. The actual demonstration project will be taken up on the basis of this report.

Setting up of new Industries in Konkan region

4631. PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special study has been made by Union Government regarding the setting up of appropriate type of industries in the backward Konkan region of Maharashtra without disturbing the ecological balance in the region ;

(b) if so, what is the nature and degree of industrialisation that has been proposed ; and

(c) what is the concrete time-bound programme evolved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No. Sir.

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

Extraction of Petrol from Coal

4632. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any experiment has been made to extract petrol from coal ; and

(b) if so, the result achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Research and Development on different aspects of conversion of coal to liquid fuels has been

done in the country. A 0.5 tonne coal per day bench scale Unit has been set up at Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad for direct hydrogenation of coal. Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur had operated a 500 litres per day unit for Fischer-Tropsch synthesis during the fifties. CFRI, Regional Research Laboratory (Hyderabad) and IIT, Bombay have done work on hydrogenation of tar to middle distillates.

Closure of Barat Dharmebandh Colliery

4633. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Barat Dharmebandh Colliery is lying closed in the area III of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. for a long time if so, the details thereof ;

(b) whether it is having a large reserve of good quality of coal and whether any estimate has been made out in this regard ; if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether there is any plan to extract coal in the near future or to reopen that mine ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). After nationalisation, Barat Dharmaband colliery became a part of Dharmaband colliery and is being worked through it. This part of the colliery under Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. is estimated to have a reserve of approximately 28.1 million tonnes, Khar-kharee-Dharmanband Project is being planned for larger production.

[Translation]

Central Projects in Uttar Pradesh

4634. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the particulars of the projects under his Ministry being run in Uttar Pradesh giving their names, locations, date

on which started, total estimated cost, yearly expenditure, facilities provided by State Government, total estimated cost, and present position thereof ; and

(b) whether any project report has been prepared in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

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

[English]

Regularisation of contingent employees by ONGC at Sibsagar

4635. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of employees of Oil and Natural Gas Commission at Sibsagar (Assam) in lower cadres have been working on contingent basis for several years together although contingent recruits in similar levels of service in other regions of the Commission even with lesser tenures of service have been regularised ; and

(b) if so, the action being taken by Government and ONGC to remove such disparity and to regularise the contingent employees at Sibsagar ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b). Engagement of workers on daily wages basis is resorted to on a limited scale for specific jobs. Eligible persons amongst such workers are considered for regular appointment, alongwith other eligible candidates, by the Commission. The same policy applies over all the regions of the Commission and there is no disparity in this regard between Sibsagar and other regions.