

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.