

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are being worked out by Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL).

Non-recovery of amount on account of handloom supplied by N.C.C.F.

3935. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether sometime in 1980 the Kanpur Branch of the National Cooperative Consumers, Federation of India Limited supplied to M/s Shahdara Consumer Co-operative Store, Shahdara, Janata Handloom cloth worth Rs. 22 87 lakhs on credit in violation of its policy ;

(b) whether the party has made the payment to the NCCF ; and

(c) if so, when ; if not, the reasons for non-recovery so far and the steps taken in this regard including against the officers found guilty of negligence ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). NCCF has reported that its Kanpur Branch, in violation of guidelines, had supplied on credit Janta Handloom cloth worth Rs. 28.93 lakhs to the Shahdra Consumer Coopera-tive Store and an amount of Rs. 22.46 lakhs still remains unpaid to it by the society.

(c) As reported by the NCCF, it has filed with the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Delhi a case for the recovery of the amount and has initiated departmental action against the officers responsible for the irregularities.

New Method for Storage of Foodgrains

3936. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that Karnataka State has evolved better methods for storage of foodgrains ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to store foodgrains using scientific methods and to avoid heavy losses throughout the country ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : (a) and (b). No better methods of foodgrain storage have been evolved by Karnataka State. However, in collaboration with the State Govern-ments, the 17 Central Save Grain Teams have been organising training, demonstra-tions and publicity in selected rural areas in different States including Karnataka to disseminate scientific practices for storage of foodgrains at the farm level. Besides, the following steps are taken for scientific storage of procured foodgrains :

(i) Foodgrain stock is held in scienti-fically-built godowns, as far as possible. The remaining stock is kept under Cover and Plinth (CAP) arrangement with necessary precautions.

(ii) Stocks are inspected periodically by qualified staff.

(iii) Disinfestation measures are under-taken from time to time.

Expenditure on Coal Mines

3637. SHRI HUSSAIN DALWAI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge expenditure made by Government on coal mines is very high and uneconomic ;

(b) whether stringent measures are necessary to curb the same to bring the cost within permissible limit ;

(c) the effective measures proposed to be taken to bring the cost within the ambit of cost benefit ratio ; and

(d) the total expenditure incurred on coal mines per year and the production of coal every year ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). The expenditure incurred on coal mines is commensurate with the techno-commercial requirements of coal projects. However, the present working of Coal India Limited as a whole is uneconomic on account of various factors. Continuous efforts are being made to improve the working of the mines. Various measures being adopted to improve working of coal companies include opening of new mines, 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-development after suitable training, better availability of inputs like explosives, timber etc., reduction of pit-head stocks by faster movement and more systematic distribution, expeditious and timely completion of new projects and improvement in the law and order situation and control over mafia activities in Bihar-Bengal coalfields.

However, Singareni Collieries Company Limited has made profit during the year 1985-86.

(d) The capital expenditure in the form of Equity and Loan by the Central Government in respect of Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited and production of coal by Coal India Limited and Singareni Collieries Company Limited during the last three years are indicated below :

	Capital expenditure		Production	
	CIL (Rs. in crores)	SCCL	CIL (in million tones)	SCCL
1983-84	831.00	50.77	121.41	12.69
1984-85	775.00	52.00	130.81	12.33
1985-86	836.50	54.00	134.11	15.70

Study on Hydroelectric Potential

3938. **SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :**
SHRI H N. NANJE GOWDA :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has conducted a study on the hydro-electric potential in the country ;

(b) if so, details thereof ; and

(c) whether any suggestions have been made in the study in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE

MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI SUSHILA ROHTAGI) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Requirement of Compressed Gas for Domestic and Industrial purposes

3939. **DR. P. VALIAL PERUMAN :**
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have worked out the requirement of compressed gas both for domestic and industrial purposes per day before the Oil and Natural Gas Commission takes up massive network of gas distribution through national gas grid ;

(b) if so, the details regarding quantity required for domestic and industrial purposes and the requirement of different regions ; and

(c) whether Government would be in a position to sustain continuous supply of compressed gas from the indigenous production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHMADUTT): (a) to (c). The national gas grid is part of a long term perspective plan for the development and utilisation of natural gas. Its implementation will depend on the establishment of adequate reserves of gas and availability of financial resources for its production and utilisation. Exploration is under way for discovering oil and gas reserves.

Cause of sickness in small industries

3940. DR. A. KALANIDHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the scheme of National Equity Fund introduced or likely to be introduced to give support to small industries in raising their seed capital to facilitate increased borrowing from the Banks ; and

(b) the recommendations made by several studies carried out to assess the extent and cause of sickness in small industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The details of the scheme of National Equity Fund are being worked out.

(b) The studies carried out to assess the extent and causes of sickness in small industries have broadly identified the principal causes of sickness as defective planning and implementation, management deficiency, inefficiency in financial control,

diversion of resources, poor industrial relations, obsolescence of technology and machinery, inadequacy of demand, shortage of raw materials, finance and other inputs, and infrastructural constraints. The studies have laid emphasis on the intensive character of relief measures and its speedy implementation. Their recommendations relate to identification of sickness and prompt relief measures to arrest sickness in the incipient stage, conducting of viability studies of sick units and nursing of potentially viable units through a well designed package of rehabilitation.

[*Translation*]

Opening of coal stockyard in Madhya Pradesh

3941. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA :
SHRI K.N. PRADHAN :
SHRI MOHAN LAL JHIKRAM :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a decision to open coal stockyard at twelve places in Madhya Pradesh was taken by the Coal India Limited in the past ;

(b) if so, the number of the coal stockyards which have been set up in Madhya Pradesh till date ;

(c) whether these stockyards are actually functioning ; and

(d) the action taken to set up the rest of the stockyards ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) and (b). Coal India, in consultation with the Govt. of Madhya Pradesh, had decided earlier to open 12 road borne stockyards in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Accordingly, 5 such stockyards were commissioned at Bhopal, Indore, Gwalior, Katni and Dongargarh. However, with the change of policy to move coal by rail, rail borne stockyards were opened at Indore, Gwalior and