

tries based on rare earth sands in the coastal Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b). Preliminary feasibility studies for setting up of a mining and mineral separation unit near Bhimilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh for production of minerals such as Ilmenite, Rutile, Zircon, Monazite, etc. is being carried out. Setting up of the project will depend upon the techno-economic viability and utilisation of Lomnite by down-stream industries.

(c) Does not arise.

#### Fire in Jharia

2215. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:  
SHRIMATI MALINI CHATTACHARAYA:  
SHRIBHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:

Will the MINISTER OF COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the project for extinguishing the 20 years old fires raging in Jharia and other collieries in the Eastern region;

(b) the estimated cost for putting out the fires presently;

(c) the steps being taken to put out these fires;

(d) whether the Government have taken an final decision regarding UNDP assistance in putting out the fire; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIS.B. NYAMMA-GOUDA): (a) to (c). The main problem of fires exists in Jharia Coalfield of Bharat Coking Coal Limited. There were 70 fires in Jharia coalfield covering area of 17.32 sq.kms., since a long-time before nationalisation of coking coal mines. The first fire in this coalfield was reported in the year 1916.

After nationalisation of the coking coal mines in 1971, BCCL have formulated 22 schemes for dealing with major fires in the Jharia Coalfield. Total amount sanctioned for these schemes is Rs.114.57 crores out of which a sum of Rs.73 crores have already been spent, and these are under different stages of implementation. As a result of these efforts, 5 fires have been fully extinguished. In addition, at 3 sites the protective measures required to deal with the fires have been completed and it will take some more time before these fires are completely extinguished. At 13 other sites fires have been contained and further work to completely extinguish these fires is in progress. Effective monitoring of the progress of fire projects for improvement of the effectiveness of the control of fire operations is being done. The dimensions of the problem of Jharia Coalfield fires being very large it is difficult to indicate the exact amount of funds required for dealing with these fires.

In addition to the fires in Jharia Coalfield of BCCL, there were also some minor fires in Eastern Coalfields Limited, Central Coalfields Ltd., in the eastern region. Some of these fires have already been effectively dealt with, while action is being taken to control the remaining fires.

(d) and (e). One project for dealing with coalfield fires has been posed for UNDP assistance which aims at identification of methodology for extinguishing the fires.

#### Physical Quality of Life Index

2216. SHRI RAM NARESH SINGH: Will

the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has conducted any studies regarding Physical Quality of Life Index in different parts of Country;

(b) if so, the components/ indicators included in the index and the weightages assigned to them; and

(c) the value of the index in different States and Union Territories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

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

#### **Social Security Schemes for Industrial Workers**

2217. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the MINISTER OF LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any social security schemes for the benefits of industrial workers are under implementation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to update those schemes?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Social security benefits are provided to industrial workers under the following Acts:-

- (i) **Employes Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.**

(ii) **Employes State Insurance Act, 1948.**

(iii) **Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972.**

(iv) **Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.**

(v) **Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.**

Acts referred to at (i), (ii) and (iii) above are applicable only to certain establishments who are employing the prescribed number of persons and the benefits are available to those employees who are drawing pay upto limits prescribed under the respective Acts. No such conditions are applicable in respect of the Acts referred at (iv) and (v) above. The social security benefits include medical benefit (full medical care), sickness benefit, (cash benefit), Provident Fund, Family Pension, Deposit Linked Insurance, Compensation for death/injury resulting out of employment, Gratuity on retirement and Maternity Benefit with pay.

(c) The social security schemes are generally finalised on tripartite basis and are modified as and when necessary.

#### **Industries by Multinationals in West Bengal**

2218. SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the multinational companies and NRIs have sent some proposals to set up industrial ventures in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the proposals received during the last three years; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL