

National highway costing Rs. 238.68 lacs are presently in progress for which a provision of Rs. 50.45 lacs has been made in the Demand for Grants for 1992-93. These works are likely to be completed by march, 1994.

Coal Production

3207. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH
SHAKYA:

Will the Minister to COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated requirement and production of each variety of coal by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether the Government have provided funds to achieve the targets;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the production targets?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) The Planning Commission has assessed the raw Coal requirement of the country by 1996-97, the terminal year of the Eighth Plan, at 311.00 million tonnes (42.00 million tonnes of Coking Coal and 269.00 million tonnes of non-coking coal). Against this requirement of 311.00 million tonnes, the Planning Commission has fixed a coal production target of 308.00 million tonnes for 1996-97. The gap if any, between demand materialisation and production is proposed to be met by drawal from pithead stocks in case of non-coking coal and by imports for blending purposes in case of coking coal for steel plants.

(b) and (c). To meet the production target of 308.00 million tonnes by 1996-97, the Planning Commission has indicated an Eighth Plan outlay of Rs. 8520.00 crores (at 1991-92 prices) for Coal India Limited and Rs. 1000.00 crores (at 1991-92 prices) for Singareni Collieries Company Limited in addition to Contribution from Government of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) Various efficiency measures like rationalisation in manpower, improvement in productivity, adoption of latest mining technologies, improvement in system capacity utilisation, optimising production from existing mines and opening of new mines etc. are being taken to achieve the future production targets.

Coal Deposits In Maharashtra

3208. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Coal deposits are available in abundance in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to fully exploit the coal resources of the State; and

(d) whether the people of concerned regions are likely to be given priority for jobs in these mines?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S.B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Coal reserves have been assessed in the State of