

enhanced from Rs. 5,000/- to Rs. 10,000/- so as to bring it at par with the cash award of the best actor and best actress.

(2) In order to give encouragement to the producer whose film has been adjudged as the best non-feature film, the cash prize of Rs. 15,000/- to such a producer has been enhanced to Rs. 20,000/-.

(3) The earlier rules provided that film-makers submitting an entry for the awards were not eligible for nomination as a jury member. To enable technical persons like cameraman associated with an entry also being precluded from being nominated to the jury, the following provision has now been made:

"Any person directly or indirectly associated with the films entered for competition in feature or non-feature category, shall not be eligible to serve on any of the jury panels.

(4) The rules provided that films produced in India and certified by the Central Board of Film Certification between 1st January and 31st December are eligible to be considered. To facilitate entry of films produced in the calendar year should there be a delay on the part of the Central Board of Film Certification to issue certificate just because of holiday on 31st December, the following provision has been added:—

"In case 31st December is holiday, the next official working day shall be considered as the last date".

(5) The last date for receipt of entries has been changed from 28th February to 31st March as it is found necessary to give adequate time to the film producers to submit their entries.

#### Fire Incidents In NLC

1476. DR. P. VALLABH PERUMAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fire incidents which took place in the Nayvali Lignite Corporation during the last three years;

(b) the extent of loss suffered as a result thereof; and

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) The number of fire incidents at Nayvali Lignite Corporation Ltd. during the last three years are indicated below:—

year	Major Incidents	Minor incidents	Total incidents
1992	4	34	38
1993	3	41	44
1994	6	37	43

(b) The extent of financial loss suffered during the above period are as under:—

Year	Amount Lost (Approximately)
1992	70.81 lakhs
1993	79.00 lakhs
1994	33.49 lakhs

(c) Despite several precautionary and preventive steps, the incidents of fire have occurred in different units from time to time during operation. Since this is essentially an issue related to operation of different units, the primary responsibility of taking corrective steps in this regard lies with the company who have, inter-alia, taken the following steps:—

- (i) Constitution of Safety Cell with safety executives of each unit.
- (ii) Holding drills and fire fighting training periodically.
- (iii) Monthly meeting of Safety Cell members of all the units for detailed deliberation.
- (iv) Adoption of dust suppression method in power station and in B & C plant.
- (v) Adequate publicity for creating safety awareness through posters etc.

However, depending upon the gravity, Govt. have also in the past, conducted enquiry and consequently issued detailed instructions, essentially emphasising safety awareness, strict adherence to preventive maintenance, imparting safety education, etc.

#### Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas

1477. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have finalised the contracts for oil and gas exploration and development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to cut delays in awarding oil and gas exploration contracts and accelerate the negotiation process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). The details of contracts finalised so far by Government of India for exploration and development of oil and gas are given in the Statement enclosed.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) A separate cell has been set up in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for carrying out negotiations expeditiously.