

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) 17 coal mines have been closed due to reasons other than exhaustion of reserves.

(b) to (d) Efforts for re-opening some of these closed mines are as follows :

Company	Mines	Action taken
ECL	1. Krishnagar	Referred to DGMS for reopening permission
	2. Rana-Lower Seam	Lower seam being worked through Ningah
	3. Girimint	Techno-economic studies are being made
BCCL	1. Kendwadiah	Party property transferred for working through other mine.
	2. Laikdih Deep	Mine has been reopened
CCL	1. Pure Dhori	It has been converted into Open-Cast Mine
	2. Mael UG	It has been converted to opencast mine and merged with Rajarappa OCP
	3. Karkatta UG	It has now been converted to Open-Cast Mine.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. Under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 coal mining in the private sector is permissible only for captive consumption in power generation and production of iron and steel. Under the present policy. Only virgin blocks can be offered for captive coal mining.

Production of LPG

3273. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of LPG produced in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) the target fixed for production of LPG during 1995-96;

(c) the percentage of difference between production and demand; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to bridge this gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b) The production of LPG

during the last three years was as under :

Year	Figs. in TMT LPG Production
1992-93	2572
1993-94	2699
1994-95 (Prov.)	2858
1995-96 (Target)	2679 (Provisional)

(c) The percentage of difference between production and demand of LPG during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 (Prov.) is, 11.4%, 15.3% and 20.2% respectively.

(d) There are proposals to increase the production of LPG by commissioning of new refineries and fractionators and augmenting LPG production capacities at some of the existing production centres. Plans have also been drawn up for augmentation of LPG import facilities.

LPG Cylinders

3274. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that unauthorised LPG cylinders are being manufactured in Meerut;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any arrests have been made in this connection; and

(d) if so, the action taken to check unauthorised manufacture of LPG cylinders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b) A news-item titled 'Meerut's thriving LPG racket' appeared in Times of India dated 26.5.1995. The matter has been investigated and it is revealed that certain fabricators are engaged in manufacturing mini LPG cylinders without obtaining any approval as required under the Gas Cylinder Rules, 1981. As per report, the fabricators are manufacturing mini cylinders of the size other than that used by the Public Sector Oil Companies.

(c) and (d) Department of Explosives has asked the UP Government and Meerut District Administration to take stern action against the unauthorised manufacturers of mini cylinders.

Removal of Lead Free Petrol

3275. SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether removing lead from petrol brings carcinogenic Benzene into the atmosphere;