

(a) whether the Union Government propose to declare Uttarakhand as most backward area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAVA) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Planning, development and identification of backward area for special attention and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. Planning Commission helps the States in this regard through weightage in the criteria used for distribution of central assistance and through Special Area Programme.

[Translation]

Coal Production

3881. DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Coal India Limited is exploring any new sites for increasing coal production;

(b) if so, the places identified during the past one year; and

(c) the expected production of coal from these new sites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During 1994-95 detailed exploration work was carried out in 90 blocks in 24 coalfields. Based on the detailed exploration work, 31 geological reports were prepared estimating a total coal reserve of 2868.37 million tonnes. The likely expected production from these sites can be known only after the projects are formulated.

Preservation of Monuments in Tamilnadu

3882. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been brought to the serial named "Living on the Edge" telecast on Doordarshan, Channel-I on October 29, 1995 regarding preservation of monuments in Tamilnadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for preservation of monuments in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. One segment of the said programme presented a report on the state of certain temples built between the 11th and 13th centuries in a village near Madras.

(c) Appropriate action in the matter will have to be taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Captive Coal Mines to States

3883. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to offer captive coal mines to States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States which have been offered captive coal mines; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure adequate supply of coal to States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, proposals from following State Electricity Boards have been received for Captive mining blocks for generation of power :-

Name of the State Electricity Board	Coalfields in which Blocks are located
1. M/s. Tamil Nadu Electricity Board	Talcher
2. M/s. Andhra Pradesh Electricity Board	Talcher
3. M/s. West Bengal Electricity Board	Raniganj

(d) Instructions have been issued to coal companies to ensure adequate availability of coal to the consumers in various States. Requests for additional allocation of coal/coke are considered/examined in each case on merits. In addition, coal from a number of collieries is being offered under the Liberalised Sales Scheme (LSS) under which, coal is supplied without the requirements of linkages/sponsorships. Under this scheme, coal is also being supplied to whole sale traders and mini traders who in turn meet the requirements of small consumers.

Distribution Network of IOC

3884. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether IOC is able to give adequate attention to the distribution network in the country and its management is also adequate to cater the public needs;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline its activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.