

Taping of Collieries in Bihar

7875. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to tap more collieries in the country;

(b) if so, whether some more collieries are likely to be tapped in Bihar;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. During 8th Plan about 40 new and re-organisation coal projects may be taken up in Bihar. The starting of operations will inter-alia, depend on the factors like techno-economic feasibility, availability of land and other necessary clearances.

[English]

Technology for Coal Mining

7876. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the technology being employed by the nationalised coal mines to have quantum jump in their coal mining operations; and

(b) the coal production projections upto 2000 A.D.?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to meet the rapid increase in demand for coal in the country, the coal companies are employing modern technology in their mining operations as follows:

(i) In mine planning and development, advanced technologies are being introduced such as electrical resistivity surveys, magnetic surveys, gravity surveys, in-seam seismic surveys, radio imaging etc.

(ii) In coal extraction, open cast mines of 5 to 10 million tonnes capacity per annum are being opened with higher capacity equipment and greater mechanisation. In underground mining also, there is a progressive application of modern technology through deployment of mechanised long-wall equipment, introduction of gallery blasting method, shield mining method etc.

(iii) In coal handling, mechanised coal handling plants are being set up. These would ultimately handle all the coal produced by the coal companies.

(iv) In the field of communications better communication facilities are being introduced such as micro-wave circuit, Satellite-based communication network through earth station, computer net-working and electronification of under ground mines.

(b) The Govt. have not yet taken a decision regarding the coal production targets to be set upto the year 2000 A.D. However, a production of 418 million tonnes of coal by the year 1999-2000 has been projected tentatively.