

operated by Neyveli Lignite Corporation Ltd., and Central Government undertaking, and Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation, a State Government undertaking respectively.

### **Soviet Technology for Controlling Fires in Mines**

1144. SHRI D.M. PUTTE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Soviet experts have offered Indian miners an original and reliable technology for controlling fires in mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether Government propose to adopt this technology; and

(c) if so, to what extent it will be more useful in this country?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The Soviet side had offered a technology known as 'grouting technology' for control of a section of fire at Mukunda block of Bharat Cooking Coal Limited on an experimental basis. The grouting technology consists of drilling bore-holes along the periphery of the fire and injecting them with special heat resistant grouts thereby isolating the fire. This technology has not been tried for controlling mine fires anywhere but is used for other applications like reduction of water percolation etc. As the Soviet side was not in a position to fully guarantee the success of this technology in controlling fire, its introduction is not contemplated at present.

(c) Does not arise.

### **Price Fixation of Paraxylene**

1145. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of fixing a reasonable price for paraxylene a basic raw material for production of PTA and DMT, is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) and (b). There is no price control over paraxylene, DMT and PTA. BICP and Cost Account Branch have recently carried out cost study and the reports are under study.

[*Translation*]

### **Living and Working Conditions of Employees of ONGC Engaged In Shot Hole Drilling**

1146. SHRI RAM PRASAD CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is being formulated to improve the working and living conditions of the labourers and employees engaged in shot hole drilling work under the Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c). The shot hole drilling work during seismic field surveys is done both by the regular employees of ONGC and through job contracts awarded to contractors and cooperative societies. The employees of ONGC engaged in shot hole drilling work are a part of the seismic field party crews of ONGC. The seismic crews, including shot hole drilling employees are entitled to certain facilities like free