

Enquiry into environmental situation of Raniganj Coalfields

98. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report from the H.B. Ghosh Committee appointed in 1988 to enquire into the environmental situation of Raniganj Coalfields; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). The Department of Coal had set up an Advance Environmental Planning Group for Raniganj Coalfield in March, 1988 which was headed by Shri H.B. Ghosh, former Director General Mines Safety and also Ex-Chairman-cum-Managing Director, CMPDI. The terms of reference of the Expert Group were as follows:-

- (i) Details assessment of the environmental impact of development of coal mines;
- (ii) Suggest measures for minimising the degradation of land as a result of mining operations and to finalise the plan for afforestation;
- (iii) Suggest pollution control measures to be taken by the coal companies to ensure that mining activity is carried out in an environmentally compatible manner;
- (iv) Suggest an organisational set up which would expedite land reclamation and afforestation.

The Group has submitted its report which is more in the nature of an assessment in the

coalfield area in general to serve as guidelines of environmental protection measures for projects to be taken up in future.

The report also deals with the problems of land subsidence in areas worked out in past, air and water pollution in the area and protection measures which can be taken to ensure that mining activities are carried out in an environmentally compatible manner.

[Translation]

Shifting of D.V.C. Headquarters

99. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether the headquarters of Damodar Valley Corporation is at Calcutta whereas 90 per cent of its projects are in Bihar;

(b) if so, whether the headquarters of Damodar Valley Corporation are proposed to be shifted to Maithan or Tilaiya dam (Bihar) to better management and efficiency in work; and

(c) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). The Damodar Valley Corporation is functioning with headquarters at Calcutta ever since its inception in 1948. A suggestion has been made about the shifting of headquarters to the area of operation of the Corporation. No such decision has been taken.

[English]

Import of crude oil and Petroleum Products

100. SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA: