

Coalfields of West Bengal have been identified by the Directorate General of Mines Safety as exposed to danger of subsidence; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to avert the impending danger?

**THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN):** (a) Instances of land subsidence have been reported from time to time in Raniganj areas over the last several years due to unscientific exploitation of coal in the pre-nationalisation days. About 6.2 square kilo meters of the total areas of 1530 square kilo meters of Raniganj Coalfield has been identified as unsafe area for habitation by the Director General of Mines Safety.

(b) Steps taken to check subsidence include:—

- (i) Mining operations are carried out in conformity with rules and regulations and strictly as per conditions imposed by DGMS;
- (ii) Extraction below built up areas is done only in conjunction with stowing;
- (iii) Restricted working/extraction is carried out in case of workings under shallow cover;
- (iv) Prohibition of construction activities over areas declared unsafe for habitation;
- (v) Regular follow-up and liaison with the the District Authorities has been maintained for evacuation of people from areas declared unsafe.

A pilot project under Research and Development programme of the Department was taken up at an old abandoned mine at Ramjibanpur with a view to evolving a new technique of stowing send from the surface through boreholes with the aid of compressed air. Encouraged by the result of this experiment, Eastern Coalfields Ltd., has taken up a scheme to stabilise 8.72 Hectares of unstable dangerous area in Raniganj. On successful completion of the scheme, this technology may find application to other places in the Raniganj Coalfields.

#### **Haldia Petrochemicals Project**

118. SHRI CHITTA BASU:  
SHRI CHITTA MAHATA:  
DR. DEBI PRASAD PAL:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether their Government have finally cleared the Haldia Petrochemicals Projects in West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details of the arrangements worked out for speedy implementation of the project?

**THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY):** (a) and (b). Earlier, a letter of intent for setting up a petrochemical complex at Haldia was issued on November 11, 1977. For a variety of reasons the project authorities have not been able to implement this letter of intent thus far.

Recently, in February 1990, the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., has applied for a fresh letter of intent for a larger sized petrochemical complex at Haldia conforming to the minimum economic sizes prescribed for such projects. The application is under process.