

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Consistent with the liberalisation policy of the Govt. following major policy decisions have recently been taken regarding coal industry:

(i) to permit private sector participation in coal mining operations for the purpose of captive consumption for power generation and other end uses to be notified as well as for setting up of washeries. This will augment the availability of coal for core sectors of the economy in coming years. The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act 1973 has been amended on 9-6-1993 to this effect.

(ii) Liberalised Sale Scheme (LSS) has been further improved to extend the benefits to a larger cross section of buyers. Interested buyers under 'LSS' have been categorised as under:

1. Actual users.
2. Mini Traders.
3. Whole Sale Traders.
4. General.

First preference in order booking and despatches under Liberalised Sale Scheme would be given to actual users who can draw coal for their own use in addition to the normal supplies being received by them against sponsorships/linkages.

Second preference would be given to the Mini Traders registered with coal companies. Coal India Limited (CIL) have given wide publicity inviting application for registration as Mini Traders. They will be registered on a continuous basis. Applications received upto 14-8-1993 would be registered in the first batch. Mini Traders would be supplied coal upto 100 tonnes per month subject to availability after meeting the orders booked by actual users. Third preference would be given to the Whole Sale Traders appointed by the coal companies subject to availability after meeting orders booked by first two categories. If some quantity is still available, it would be allocated to other interested buyers.

[English]

LPG Connections

3543. SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL }
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR }
SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHI- }
KHALIA }
SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV }
SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD }

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to release LPG connections to those consumers who are registered five years ago;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the directions issued by the Consumer protection Forum in this regard are being followed; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA) : (a) and (b) New LPG connections are released to waitlisted applicants according to the serial order of registration, depending on new customer enrolment allotted to a distributor based on the stock available with the distributor, waiting list and product availability.

(c) Orders of all the competent authorities are implemented.

(d) Does not arise.

Fire in Kathara Colliery

3544. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large quantity of coal in the Kathara Colliery of the Central Coalfields Limited is being wasted due to fire;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since when it has been taking place and the total loss incurred so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to control fire?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) to (d) According to the information received from the Central Coalfields Limited (CCL), there is no fire either in the coal seam or in the coal stock of Kathara Colliery. As such, there is no question of any loss of coal. However, the waste rock, namely, the overburden material is on fire due to presence of layer carbonaceous material which catches fire due to the inherent property of spontaneous heating. In order to control this fire, the overburden material is being dozed and covered by a layer of non-combustible soil and matti. In this process the spread of fire has been controlled.

Ganga Basin

3545. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether at least 40,000 cusecs of water for the Calcutta port and an additional minimum quantity of 15,000 cusecs of water for river Ganga is required at Farakka for stabilising irrigation in the Ganga basin in West Bengal;

(b) whether this requirement of the State is not being fulfilled due to the excessive tapping of water from the river Ganga in the upper reaches;