

Completion of Coal Project undertaken with Soviet collaboration

2897. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the coal project which was undertaken with Soviet collaboration has not yet been completed;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) to (c). Several coal projects are being taken up with Soviet collaboration. No coal project with Soviet collaboration has yet been completed. Presently work is being undertaken at Jhanjra underground mine of ECL, and on the experimental panel in Tipong of NIC. These projects are scheduled to be completed by 1992-93 and 1986-87, respectively. As will be seen from the schedules, coal projects have a long gestation period.

In addition Soviet assistance has been sought for undertaking feasibility studies and assistance for the construction of several projects like Mukunda opencast mine and the Nigahi opencast mine, for directional blasting at Jhingurda, modernisation of the Patherdih washery, etc. Collaboration in respect of these projects is generally in the stage of drawing up of feasibility reports.

Discovery of Coal Deposits in Orissa

2898. SHRI RADHA KANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of coal deposits discovered in Orissa as per recent survey;

(b) the particulars of places in Orissa surveyed by Geological Survey of India to assess coal deposits;

(c) when the survey was conducted by G.S.I.; and

(d) the details of the survey Report received by his Ministry ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) As a result of recent assessment by Geological Survey of India in river coalfield, Sambalpur District, and Talcher coalfield, Dhenkunal District; a total reserve of 29,535 million tonnes of coal, has been estimated.

(b) and (c). Geological Survey of India is engaged in regional exploration for coal in the West-Central, Western and Northern parts of Talcher coalfield, Dhenkunal Distt.; and Hingir-Gopalpur, and Rohini sectors in Ib River coalfields, Sambalpur District. The regional exploration in these coalfields has been carried out since late seventies and is being continued till now.

(d) Geological Survey of India have released five progress reports on Talcher and Ib River Coalfields in Orissa during field season 1983-84 and 1984-85 (October, 1983 to September, 1984).

Establishment of New Steel Plants during Seventh Plan Period

2899. SHRI RADHA KANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the policy of Government for establishment of new steel plants during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) the number of steel plants proposed to be set up in the country during the above Plan period;

(c) whether Government have a proposal to set up a steel plant at Daitari in Orissa during the above Plan period; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (d). Seventh Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised. However, Government have decided in principle to set up steel plants in Vijayanagar in Karnataka and near Daitari in Orissa. This decision of the Government remains unaltered. The likely schedule of setting up of the plant near Daitari in Orissa will depend upon the investment decision, which has not yet been taken,