

(b) Owing to financial constraints during the 7th Five Year Plan period, it has not been possible to take up fresh proposals for augmentation of storage capacity, except as would be considered operationally necessary.

Setting up of New Washeries for washing non-coking coal

2305. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI SOMNATH RATH :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has suggested the setting up of 15 new washeries for washing 30 million tonnes of non-coking coal annually to improve its quality;

(b) if so, the number of washeries which will be set up in West Bengal, their capacity utilisation and their location; and

(c) how for this will increase the energy content of coal ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Closure of Mines by Eastern Coalfields Limited

2306. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL :
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI SRIHARI RAO :
SHRI V. TULSI RAM :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfields Limited has suggested to the Government to close down at least 25 mines under the company;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether the workers/labourers engaged in the proposed closed mines will be absorbed in other mines;

(d) the purpose behind closing the mines; and

(e) whether closing down the mines would affect production of the superior grade coal and it would have to be imported for use by industries such as cement and glass ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (e) Eastern coalfields Limited has not suggested to the Government closure of any of its mines. An Expert Committee constituted by the Department of Coal to make an indepth study of the working of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. has observed, *inter-alia*, that some of the mines in which the cost of production of coal is very high and productivity in very low may be considered for closure. No decision has yet been taken by the Government on this observation of the Committee and no mine has been closed.

Corporate Liability in Controlling Pollution

2307. DR. B. L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the impediments generally faced by the industries in the implementation of pollution control measures;

(b) whether Government have considered the need for formulating a sound policy for re-location of hazardous industries in the context of the massve gas leak from Shriram Food and Fertilizer Plant in West Delhi, Bhopal Gas tragedy etc.; and

(c) whether there is any proposal for fixing corporate liability as a pollution control measure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Impediments faced by industries in the implementation of pollution control measures differ from unit to unit. Generally these pertain to financial constraints to instal pollution control equipment, lack of technical know-how and trained personhel.

(b) The need for relocation of hazardous industries by shifting them from congested areas is well recognised. With a view to encouraging hazardous and other industries to move out of congested areas, Govt. had announced certain fiscal incentives in the budget for 1983-84 which is applicable in subsequent year.

(c) Ministry of Industry have no such proposal under consideration at present.

Entertainment of Guests by Public Enterprises

2308. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public enterprises are allowed to spend money on liquor when guests are entertained;

(b) whether any restriction is put on public enterprises to entertain guests.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b). Government have advised the public enterprises to exercise utmost austerity while incurring expenditure on entertainment. They are also required to restrict the number of invitees to the barest minimum. They have also been advised that no liquor should be served at any entertainment hosted by them even where the chief guest/principal invitees are foreigners.

Annual Allocation to Coir Board and Coir Goods Export

2309. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the annual allocations made to the Coir Board during the past three years;

(b) the total value of exports of coir goods during the same period; and

(c) the details of schemes for the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The annual allocations made to the Coir Board during the past three years are as follows :

Year	Total
	(Rupees in lakhs)
1982-83	176.30
1983-84	230.75
1984-85	254.75

(b) The total value of exports of coir goods during the Plan Period :

Year	Value
	(Rupees in lakhs)
1982-83	2,617
1983-84	2,434
1984-85	2,641

(c) The Plan provision for implementation of the development schemes under the coir industry has been substantially increased to Rs. 17.84 crores in the Seventh Plan as against the actual expenditure of Rs. 8.34 crores in the Sixth Plan. One of the major thrust areas in the Seventh Plan is accelerated development of brown fibre sector in the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa. The 'on going' centrally-sponsored schemes to cooperativisation of coir industry is being revised to provide for more liberalised pattern of assistance. Some of the other more important schemes included in the Seventh Plan are intensification of research and development for technology upgradation, training of coir workers, officials and others concerned with the development of coir industry, expansion of domestic market, augmentation of exports, assistance to organised sector, welfare measures for coir workers etc.