

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which an Urdu teleprinter would be available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Extraction of Coal In Gujarat

1673. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge quantities of coal are lying buried in Gujarat which cannot be extracted through traditional methods;

(b) whether a new method has been evolved in the West for extraction of such deposits; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to adopt this new method to extract the rich deposits of coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) Yes, Sir. Oil and Natural Gas Commission, while drilling for oil, has discovered large reserves of coal tentatively estimated at about 63 billion tonnes in North Gujarat at depths ranging from about 700 to 1,700 metres. Because of the great depth and the nature of the super-incumbent strata, recovery of this coal is not amenable to conventional methods of mining.

(b) Research and development work in regard to underground gasification of coal/lignite deposits at depths upto about 800 metres is being carried on in USSR, UK, USA, France, Belgium and Germany for the last several years.

(c) A pilot project for gasification of 'in-situ' coal near Mehsana city in Gujarat to determine the feasibility of gasifying these coal deposits is under consideration.

Import of Tyres

1674. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the value in rupees of tyres imported under revised import policy; and

(b) its impact on natural rubber trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No. import of tyres have taken place under the scheme announced in March, 1988 for the import of certain categories of truck and bus tyres at reduced rate of duty.

(b). Does not arise.

Technology Mission for Oil Extraction

1675. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a technology mission to work on oil extraction techniques;

(b) if so, the details thereof and when it is going to be set up; and

(c) the time by which the technology mission on oil extraction technique is expected to complete its works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) No Sir.