

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). The Draft Five Year Plan 1978-83 lays priority for meeting the energy needs of the agricultural operations also through bullock power in the context of the small farms and the small farmer economy in the country and the availability of draught animals. Even though the policy for development of cattle would lay major emphasis on increasing the productivity of stock in respect of milk production, there would also be substantial improvement in the work capacity of male progeny. The plan envisages a comprehensive and planned crossbreeding of cattle with exotic dairy breeds. Such programme would help in a large measure in improving the draught capacity of the progeny from scrub animals that would be brought under the crossbreeding or selective breeding programme. Research and development activities to improve bullock-cart designs and socio-economic surveys to determine the precise role of bullock-carts have also been undertaken.

गिरिडीह में ताम्बा, टिन, स्टील का पता लगाना

1084. श्री रीतलाल प्रसाद वर्मा : क्या इस्पात और खान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या भारतीय भू-विज्ञान सर्वेक्षण संस्थान ने 1971-73 में अपने छिद्रण कार्य के दौरान बिहार के गिरिडीह जिले में ताम्बा, टिन, सीसा, आदि का पता लगाया है ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इन धातुओं की खुदाई और उत्पादन के लिए क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है और यदि कोई कार्यवाही नहीं की जा रही है तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

इस्पात और खान मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कृष्णा मुखर्जी): (क) भारतीय भू-सर्वेक्षण ने 1971-73 के दौरान गिरिडीह जिला (बिहार) के बेंगाबाद खण्ड में इन धातुओं के लिए कोई छिद्रण कार्य नहीं किया। लेकिन 1968-70 के दौरान इन क्षेत्रों में ताम्बा, सीसा, जस्ता छिद्रण की गई थी, जिसका कोई उच्च-स्तरीय परीक्षण नहीं किया।

(ख) खान नहीं उठता।

4202 LS-5.

Scarcity of Kerosene and Cooking Gas

1085. SHRI SAUGATA ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is acute scarcity of kerosene and cooking gas in the major cities.

(b) the reasons for the scarcity; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the distribution system?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): (a) and (b). The sales of kerosene in the country as a whole during the period April to November, 1978, were about 2.586 million tonnes as against the allocation of about 2.560 million tonnes registering a growth of 12 per cent over the sales in the corresponding period last year. In spite of this, however, due to shortage of other alternative fuels like coal, soft coke and firewood, the demand for kerosene has gone up considerably. The spurt in demand has resulted in shortage of the product being felt in some locations in the country.

As regards liquefied petroleum gas (cooking gas), the demand of the existing customers is sought to be met in full. During the past few months, however, availability of liquefied petroleum gas was affected in some cities on account of labour problems, transportation bottlenecks, reduced availability from refineries due to planned or unscheduled shutdowns etc.

(c) In spite of shortfalls include oil availability from Iran and difficulties in obtaining crude oil and petroleum products from international market, all efforts are being made to ensure supplies of kerosene to various locations in the country according to the allocations. The State Governments have been also advised to keep a close watch over the distribution of kerosene for ensuring equitable distribution and preventing its going into the black market.