

(b) The World Bank have extended loan of S 250 million for the Thal Vaishet Project. As regard the Hazira Project the matter is still under discussion with the World Bank.

Loss suffered by Coal India Limited after Nationalisation

2001. SHRI CHATURBHUI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss suffered by the Coal India Limited after nationalisation and after formation of the present Government;

(b) the main causes of the loss; and

(c) the details of the efforts being made by the Government to convert loss of this major industry into profit?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURI:

(a) The latest accounts of Coal India Limited have not yet been finalised. But according to the provisional unaudited accounts of Coal India Limited and its subsidiary companies the total loss suffered by the Coal India Ltd., till 1979-80 is about Rs. 706.40 crores. Accounts for the year 1980-81 will be prepared after the completion of year and only then the position of losses beyond 1979-80 will be known.

(b) The losses are mainly due to unremunerative coal price coupled with increase in the cost of inputs, increase in the wage bill and loss of production due to shortage of power supply, diesel, explosives, absenteeism and law and order and other problems.

(c) Following steps are being taken to improve the working of Coal India Ltd. and make it economically viable:-

1. Production is being stepped up and for this attempts are being

made to remove constraints in the supply of power, explosives and diesel.

2. Controlling absenteeism among the miners.

3. Control on man-power and improvement in productivity.

4. Improvement in the utilisation of equipment.

5. Control on inventory and economy in the use of stores.

The question of the revision of the coal price is also under consideration.

Setting up of Power Station in Sunderbans area of W.B.

2002. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to set up some power stations in Sunderbans Area of West Bengal by way of its development;

(b) if so, at which places;

(c) when the work will be taken up and completed; and

(d) whether these stations shall form part of DVC Grid or function under the supervision of the West Bengal State Electricity Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN):(a) to (d). No proposal for setting up any Hydro Electric or Thermal Project in the Sunderbans area of West Bengal has been received in the Central Electricity Authority. However, Sunderbans in West Bengal has been suggested as one of the potential sites for generating power by using tidal waves. Detailed studies and investigations will have to be carried out before the technical feasibility of the suggestion is established. A Coordination Committee has been set up under Chairman, Central Electricity Authority to formulate programme of investigations and studies.