

(b) The main reasons for the losses are frequent equipment failures, poor quality of coal, inadequate/irregular power supply.

(c) A technical study group was appointed to carry out a thorough survey of these plants to identify the deficiencies and suggest remedial measures. The recommendations of the Committee had been received and are being processed.

Causes of TOPA Mine disaster

376. DR. A. U. AZMI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) are Government aware that the total TOPA Mine disaster which accounted for 16 lives on July, 1982, is the consequence of gross violation of mines safety regulations as laid down by the Director General Mines Safety;

(b) is it a fact that while Coal India Ltd. has been spending cross of rupees on the purchase of timber to be used as prop to hold on the roof, not a single prop was found at the place of the accident; and

(c) if so, where did the timber go and why were the safety regulations not adhered to and who are responsible or the same, together with details of action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGI SHANKAR MISHRA): (a) to (c). A domestic Board of Enquiry appointed by the Chairman, Central Coalfields Ltd./Coal India Ltd. has found that the accident was on account of fall of the immediate shale roof above the coal seam measuring in thickness from 2" to 10" in the goaf area.

It may also be stated that Government have decided to set up a Court of Enquiry under the Mines Act to be presided over by a retired or serving Judge of High Court. The cause of the accident and the responsibility of the officers and staff in the matter can be known after the Court of Enquiry submits its report.

Chandrapur Power Project

377. DR. A. U. AZMI:

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chandrapur Power Project was sanctioned by the Centre in 1981 and that the State Government concerned has not issued any kind of tender so far for the project;

(b) whether it is also a fact that on the recommendation of the State Government concerned a deal is now being finalised by the Centre with a Swiss firm who had made unsolicited quotations for the project prior to the sanctioning of the project by the Centre; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons for finalising the deal without inviting global tenders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c). The proposal of the Maharashtra State Electricity Board (MSEB) for extension of the Chandrapur Thermal Power Station by one unit of 500 MW (Unit No. 5) was approved in June, 1981. The investment approval for Unit No. 6 is yet to be accorded. MSEB received three offers for supply of equipment for this project from (1) Swiss—West German consortium; (2) West German—Italian consortium; and (3) budgetary offer from BHEL. The Govt. of Maharashtra submitted a proposal to import two units of 500 MW each from the consortium comprising Swiss and West German manufacturers. No decision has been taken in regard to the import of equipment for this project.

Oil and Gas from Porto Novo structure ture

378. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR SINGH:
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV:

SWAMI INDERVESH:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press reports published