

(c) how far it will result in the increased output of coal in this belt; and

(d) the time it will take to implement it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) to (d) A document titled "An Approach to Master Plan for Raniganj Coalfield" has been prepared by the Central Mine Planning Design Institute. This document has been prepared on the basis of a quick initial study. It only gives a broad outlines like tentative estimates of coal reserves, assessment of production, mining technology, planning and exploration needs and other infrastructure required for development of this coalfield. The actual Master Plan for the Raniganj coalfield is yet to be prepared for which the work has been taken up.

Flaring of Gas at Oil Wells and Plants

1286. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of gas being flared off per year at each oil well and plant;

(b) the steps being taken to minimise this waste;

(c) the quantity of gas used per year as fertiliser feedstock;

(d) whether there is any proposal for its diversion to general public for cooking purposes; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PETROLEUM IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI GARGY SHANKAR MISHRA) : (a) Information regarding the quantity of gas flared at each well and plant is not readily available. However, the quantity and value of gas flared during the last four years for which figures are available, are given below :

Year	Qty. of gas flared (Million Cubic Metres)	National value of gas flared (Crores of Rs.)
1979-80	955	39.90
1980-81	760	37.15
1981-82	1520	65.40
1982-83	1895	82.75

(b) The Government have initiated a number of steps to minimise flaring of Offshore gas, such as augmentation of the compression facilities and completion of gas-based fertilizer plant at Thal in 1985. A group has been constituted to study the potential for better offtake of gas by existing users, identification of new users, setting up of a gas grid in Assam and reinjection of excess gas into suitable gas caps for pressure maintenance and conservation of energy.

(c) Approximately 285 million cubic metres of gas has been used as fertilizer feedstock during 1983-84.

(d) and (e) Natural gas as such cannot be bottled in LPG cylinders.

Utilization of expended capacity of Soda Ash by M/s. Tata Chemicals Limited

1287. SHRI R.P. DAS : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s. Tata Chemicals Ltd, was granted a licence in December, 1973 to expand their capacity by 1.40 lakh tonnes raising their installed capacity to five lakh tonnes;

(b) whether the company has gone on stream for the expanded capacity;

(c) if not, how the company has produced 4.48 lakh tonnes of soda ash in 1983; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the company has pleaded that, without conversion of metre gauge railway line to broad gauge from Hapa to Mithapur, movement of raw materials for the expanded capacity cannot take place effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R C RATH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir. Conversion of metre gauge railway line to broad gauge has, however, since been completed.

Sub-Committees of High Powered Committee on Soda Ash

1286 SHRI R.P. DAS : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(1) whether it is a fact that a High Powered Committee on Soda Ash, at its meeting held on 19th July, 1983, decided to form two Sub-Committees;

(b) if so, whether the two Sub-Committees have been formed;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that Consumer Associations have represented to Government repeatedly about the delay in forming the two Sub-Committees, if so, the action taken by Government on these representations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI R C RATH) : (a) to (d) The All India Silicate Manufacturers' Association had represented for early formation of the two Sub-Committees. The two Sub-Committees of the High Powered Committee on Soda Ash have since been constituted on 1st March, 1984,

after due consideration with regard to their composition and terms of reference.

Setting up of 360 MW Power Station under a Joint Sector Project

1290. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Orissa is actively participating in a joint sector project for setting up a 360 MW power station which will act as a captive source of power for a number of power-intensive industries in the State;

(b) whether the project report has since been received by the Central Electricity Authority;

(c) the broad outlines of the project report; the names of the beneficiary industries and how it will be financed;

(d) whether some American firms have shown interest in this project; and

(e) if so, the particulars thereof and their likely investment in the project by way of technical assistance, plant and machinery and equity participation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Orissa has proposed power generation in the joint sector so that the gap between the demand for power and its availability can be reduced. The proposal envisages installation of 360 MW thermal capacity in the Ib valley.

(b) No project report has so far been received by the Central Electricity Authority.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is no such indication in the joint sector proposal outlined by Orissa.

(e) Does not arise.