

Coal found in Bankura District
(West Bengal)

467. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH :
SHRI SUBODH HANSDA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey had discovered a considerable deposit of coal in Bankura District, West Bengal ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the steps likely to be taken to locate and utilise this coal deposits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). As a result of the investigations carried out by the Geological Survey of India a small area called Barjora coalfield was discovered in the year 1951. This coalfield spreads over an area of 33 Sq. km. and the total gross reserves are of about 24.7 m. tonnes including 12 m. tonnes of proved reserves of inferior grades of non-coking coal.

(c) Prospect of utilisation of the coal from this field do not seem to be bright, in view of the coal being non-coking and inferior in quality. The seams are generally thin and the proximity of the large Raniganj coalfield supplying better quality coal will also deter utilisation of these coal deposits at present.

Strike by Workers of Chrestien Mica
Industries, Sibsagar, Hazaribagh
Bihar

468. SHRI DINEN BHATTA-
CHARYYA : Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mica workers of Chrestien Mica Industries, Sibsagar, Hazaribagh, District, Bihar, went on a strike during March, 1971 ;

(b) the main demands of the workers ;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by Government to meet the demands ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRAM AUR PUNARVAS MANTRI) (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR) (a) to (d). The matter falls in State sphere.

Scheme for exploitation of Marine
Mineral Resources

469. SHRI B. NARAYANAN : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated by Government to exploit marine mineral resources as an alternative to our dwindling terrestrial reserves, as it has now been proved that the sea floor is strewn over with manganese, iron, nickel, cobalt and copper ; and

(b) if not, whether Government intend to do so by getting experts under P. L. 665 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRALAYA MEN RAJYA MANTRI) (SHRI SHAH NAWAZ KHAN) : (a) and (b). The Marine Geology Unit of Geological Survey of India set up in 1965 is carrying out exploration work in off-shore areas in Indian ocean and it has drawn a long term programme for exploration of the entire continental shelf of the country. As a result of the work so far done, sixteen million tonnes of high grade calcareous sand have been proved in two lagoons in Laccadive Islands. A Preliminary Survey of the reported occurrences of Phosphorite off North Andaman has also been taken up by Geological Survey of India and samples collected from the sea bottom are being analysed. The question of exploiting mineral deposits in sea-bed will be considered after the Survey in the off shore areas is completed.

Closure of iron and manganese ore Mines

470. SHRI DHANDAPANI : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES (ISPAT AUR KHAN MANTRI) be pleased to state :