

(b) Bulk of the iron ore produced is of 65 to 67% Fe content which is high grade.

(c) The entire production is exported. The prices obtained are the same as are obtained for similar types and grades of ore exported from other areas.

(d) Tungabhadra Dam and Power Station are the nearest possible source of supply. However, information is not available on abundance of Power and Water.

(e) It is difficult to compare the two in view of the wide disparity of investment and other parameters involved, since the angle involved for exporting iron ore is to earn foreign exchange whereas setting up of Steel Mill would need to be justified on its economic viability, domestic and export demand etc.

CLOSURE OF COAL MINES

4498. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that several coal mines have been closed due to the laying of the Barauni-Haldia pipelines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total annual production of cooking and other varieties of coal from those mines and their price at the present rate; and

(d) the estimated coal stock in those mines ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) No such closure has come to the notice of Government.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

NATIONAL COAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

4499. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many pits in the Giridih group of collieries

of the National Coal Development Corporation are proposed to be closed or have already been closed down;

(b) whether any expert estimate has been made of the total stock of coal in the various pits proposed to be closed; and

(c) if so, details thereof, if not, whether any such estimate is proposed to be made ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (c). Some pits in the Giridih group of collieries have been closed down progressively on account of exhaustion of reserves and the question of closure of further pits is under the examination of an expert committee constituted by the Board of Directors, which will go into all aspects of the matter including the reserves of coal.

दिल्ली मुगल सराय पार्सल गाड़ी

4500. श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या कुछ समय पूर्व उन्हें यह सुझाव मिला था कि दिल्ली-मुगल सराय पार्सल गाड़ी हापुड़-बुलन्दशहर के रास्ते चलाई जानी चाहिये ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने उक्त सुझाव की व्यावहारिकता के बारे में जांच की है; और

(ग) इस सम्बन्ध में अन्तिम निर्णय कब तक किये जाने की सम्भावना है ?

रेलवे मंत्री (श्री जे० मु० पुनाचा) : (क) जी हां ।

(ख) उस सुझाव पर ध्यानपूर्वक विचार किया गया है । लेकिन 71 अप/72 डाउन पार्सल एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियों को हापुड़-बुलन्दशहर के रास्ते चलाने का न औचित्य पाया गया है और न परिचालन की दृष्टि से ऐसा करना व्यवहारिक ही है ।

(ग) सवाल नहीं उठता ।