

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) Lignite deposits have been found in Mannargudi. The quality is as under:—

(i) Moisture	40-50%
(ii) Ash	4-12%
(iii) Volatile matter	18-23%
(iv) Fixed Carbon	17-22%
(v) Calorific Value	2200-3200 K.Cal./Kg
(vi) Bulk density	1.15-1.20 gm/cc
(vii) Total Sulphur	0.7-1.4%

(b) No, Sir. Neyveli Lignite Corporation does not propose to open any mine in Mannargudi in the near future, since detailed exploration of the deposits is not yet complete.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Refinance Scheme by R.B.I.

771. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has announced a refinance scheme for banks against their development of Resurgent India Bonds proceeds in Government securities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the R.B.I. proposes to provide a special liquidity support finance facility upto limits specified for each bank;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the name of banks to which this facility is likely to be provided and to what extent these facilities are likely to help these banks for better performance?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India had announced in September 1998 a Special Liquidity Support Facility to eligible banks under Section 17(4) (1) of RBI Act, 1934 by way of refinance to those scheduled commercial banks which would be temporarily deploying the rupee resources

available against Resurgent India Bonds (RIB) in Government Securities sold by RBI through the Open Market Operations (OMO) of the Bank on or after September 17, 1998 in excess of SLR requirements. This facility is available to banks for two blocks of four weeks each and at the end of eighth week, banks have to adjust their entire outstandings under this facility. Banks are not provided any refinance under the facility for two weeks thereafter. Rate of interest for the first block of four week is Bank rate (9.0 per cent per annum at present) and for the next block of four weeks it is Bank Rate plus one percentage point (10.0 per cent per annum). This will remain in force only upto March 31st, 1999.

The facility has been provided to the following banks. This facility would enable the banks to tide over their unanticipated temporary liquidity problems.

1. State Bank of India.
2. ABN Amro Bank.
3. Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank.
4. ANZ Grindlays Bank.
5. Bank of America.
6. British Bank of Middle East.
7. Citibank.
8. Credit Lyonnais.
9. Hongkong Bank.
10. Standard Chartered Bank.
11. Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait.
12. Barclays Bank.
13. Credit Agricole Indosuez.
14. Mashreq Bank.
15. Oman International Bank.
16. Global Trust Bank.
17. HFDC Bank.
18. ICICI Banking Corp.
19. Indusland Bank.

20. Times Bank.
21. UTI Bank.
22. Bank of India.
23. Bank of Baroda.
24. Punjab & Sind Bank.
25. India Bank.
26. State Bank of Travancore.
27. Deutsche Bank.
28. American Express Bank.
29. SBI Commercial and International Bank.

[*Translation*]

Scheme for Development of Steel Industry

772. DR. SUSHIL INDORA:
 PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is need for the development of Steel Industry in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government have implemented any scheme during the last year for activating the research work for the development of Steel Industry;

(c) if so, the detailed outline of the scheme; and

(d) the total amount allocated for the implementation of this scheme during the current year and the amount released out of it upto December, 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir. To keep pace with the developments and competitiveness in the international arena, the Indian Steel industry needs to be backed up by comprehensive Research Development facilities.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Cabinet approval has been obtained to spend upto Rs. 150 crores annually from interest process of Steel Development Fund (SDF) to supplement Research & Development activity in Iron & Steel sector. An empowered Committee under the

Chairmanship of Secretary to the Govt. of India, Department of Steel with members from Department of Science & Technology, Planning Commission, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, main producers of steel, IIT, Kharagpur, National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel and others has been set up with a view to providing overall direction to the total research effort on Iron & Steel in the country and approve specific research projects placed before it.

The Empowered Committee will *inter alia* examine all aspects of Research & Development in the Iron & Steel sector; co-ordinate and monitor the on-going research programmes in the iron and steel sector; review the progress of Science & Technology programmes of national importance in the Iron & Steel Industry periodically and advise Department of Steel on policies and programmes in developing domestic capabilities for Research & Development in the iron and steel sector.

Research & Technology Mission, which will work as Secretariat to the Empowered Committee is being set up.

(d) An amount of Rs. 30.00 crores has been allocated for implementation of the scheme during 1998-99. Out of this, Rs. 0.32 crores has been released for Research & Development (R&D) upto December, 1998.

[*English*]

Benami Transaction Prohibition Act

773. SHRI VITHAL TUPE:
 SHRI D.S. AHIRE:
 DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL:
 SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Benami Transaction Prohibition Act was promulgated about 10 years ago;

(b) if so, whether Government have not given powers to any authority to implement it;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the details of the cases registered and persons prosecuted under the said Act during the last ten years; and