

Hazardous Coal Mining

769. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether attention of the Government has been drawn to a newsitem captioned "IB Valley-Mining Coal or death" published in the Economic Times dated September 2, 1997;

(b) if so, whether the mining operations by Mahanadi Coalfields, has resulted in mass air pollution spreading over the area of 1380 km. causing respiratory diseases to the workers and other employees;

(c) whether the environmental degradation and pollution has resulted in lowering of lifespan; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto and the steps taken by the Government to improve the living and working conditions of workers?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Self Reliance in Defence Systems

770. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up plans to make to country self reliant in the defence systems keeping in view the denial of technology in critical areas by some countries;

(b) if so, the details of fresh strategies being worked out/finalised to make the country self-reliant in such matter; and

(c) the details of outstanding achievements of DRDO during the last three years and important projects assigned to it in terms of emerging defence requirement and scientific and technological upgradation keeping in tune with the global progress?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The ten Year National Mission for enhancing self-reliance in Defence systems has been launched in 1995 to increase the indigenous content in the annual defence acquisition from 30 percent to 70 percent. The strategy for achieving the goals for self reliance in Defence systems envisages prioritisation of ongoing programmes and fast-track implementation of some newly identified projects.

(c) A statement is attached.

Statement

During last 3 years, DRDO has achieved self reliance in the areas of Armament and Armour. The indigenous state-of-the-art Main Battle Tank Arjun has been accepted

by the Army and has entered productionisation phase. T-72 (M1) AJEYA tank has been upgraded for its fighting capability during day and night and for protection. Surface-to-Surface missile Prithvi having a range of 150 km has been developed and its production has commenced. Light weight 5.56 mm INSAS rifle, light machine gun and their ammunition are in production. Pilotless Target Aircraft LAKSHAYA is already under production. Low level radar INDRA PC and Electronic Warfare Systems for the Army and the Air Force have been developed and are under production.

The above DRDO developed systems will lead to a production value of over Rs. 4000 crore. AGNI re-entry system for long range surface-to-surface missile has been successfully demonstrated.

In order to combat denial regimes of advanced countries, programmes for development of critical technologies have been launched. Gallium Arsenide Technology Enabling Centre (GAETEC) has been established and some passive/active components have been fabricated. silicon foundry has been established and capability for microprocessor for missile has been achieved.

Disinvestment in India Telephone Industries

771. SHRI N.N. KRISHANDAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered the proposals by the Disinvestment Commission to disinvest the Indian Telephone Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) No, Sir, The recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission in respect of ITI Ltd. are presently under examination in the Administrative Ministry viz. Department of Telecom. in consultation with the Management of ITI Ltd.

(c) Does not arise.

Losses Suffered by Rashtriya Pariyojana Nigam Limited

772. SHRI MADAN PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rashtriya Pariyojana Nigam Limited is incurring huge losses for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have any proposal to close down the Rashtriya Pariyojana Nigam Limited;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Union Government have any plan to overcome the losses; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NPCC Limited have incurred losses of Rs. 26.61 crores, Rs. 34.45 crores and Rs. 39.41 crores in the year 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 respectively.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) A revival plan is under consideration of the Government. In the revival plan certain measures such as capital re-structuring by conversion of Government loan into equity, waiver of interest on Government loan and Counter guarantee fees, fresh infusion of funds, reduction of surplus man-power, enhancement of counter guarantee limit etc. are proposed.

Non-functioning of Telephones

773. SHRI SAT MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of complaints of malfunctioning/non-functioning of telephones received during the quarter July-September, 97 (upto 15 October, 1997) in Delhi;

(b) the break up to these complaints, area-wise;

(c) the average time taken in attending to the complaints;

(d) whether the average time taken in attending to the complaints varies from area to area;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the average time taken in replacing the defective telephone instruments;

(g) whether some complaints regarding change of defective instruments are pending for months; and

(h) if so, the reasons therefor and the measures contemplated to replace the defective telephone instruments promptly?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) and (b) Sir, the details of number of complaints received in MTNL, Delhi, area-wise are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) At present 73.90% complaints are cleared within prescribed norms i.e. 48 hours, 25.70% complaints within 3 to 7 days and the remaining faults are delayed due to cable break-downs/cable thefts etc.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir, it varies from area to area due to the following reasons :

(i) Density of telephone connection.

(ii) The area is commercial/residential.

(iii) Type of switching equipments of the telephone exchange of the area.

(f) Majority of the faulty telephone instruments are replaced within 24 hours. However, due to unavoidable circumstances, some cases get delayed.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Not applicable in view of (g) above.

Statement

Area	July, 97	Aug, 97	Sept, 97	Oct. (1-15)
Central	37274	36457	30694	12190
East	67872	67737	69176	25518
Trans-Yamuna	67784	69721	64986	29301
North	66563	63572	58144	25655
South-1	43389	48365	46317	17968
South-2	63400	60082	54382	21490
West-1	71312	76967	63080	29118
West-2	64143	70941	62296	24026
Total	481737	493842	449075	185267

Telegraph Offices

774. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telegraphic offices in Bellary city;

(b) whether it has come to the notices of the Government that telegram and STD facilities are not

available round the clock to the people in Bellary city; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure quick delivery to telegrams and to provide STD facilities round the clock?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) One telegraph office is functioning in Bellary city.