

the workers as fine is charged in the matter of late payment of electricity bill, late fee fine is charged from the students in school-colleges.

[English]

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT : Sir, the capacity to pay differs from PSU to PSU.

[Translation]

That is quite different. There are so many P.S.U.s., about 234 in numbers. The ministries have expressed different views about them. It is difficult to accommodate their views at this stage because all the Ministries have not given their views. When views from all the Ministries are received, then we will take some decision.

[English]

9-16
Map of Underground Mines & Minerals

*145. PROF. RITA VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which the map of underground mines of Bharat Coking Coal Limited was prepared;

(b) the number of times the map of underground mines has been updated, so far, after the nationalisation of Coal Industry;

(c) whether the cases of theft of cables and illegal mining are on the increase in the underground collieries of BCCL through various ways which are unknown to the management inspite of blockade of gates of these underground collieries;

(d) if so, the officers found responsible for it; and

(e) the action taken/being taken to check such thefts and illegal mining and also against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) to (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Under the statutory provision of Coal Mines Regulation a number of maps/plans are required to be maintained for every working underground mine. Such maps/plans are being maintained for every working

underground mine of BCCL under the statute. These maps/plans are required to be updated once in three months (every quarter). As per information received from BCCL, the statutory plans are updated every quarter for every working mine of BCCL.

(c) to (e) According to information given by the coal company there has been no increase in the instance of illegal mining and theft of property in the underground mines of BCCL. However, it is submitted that, theft of pilferage coal as well as illegal mining is carried out stealthily and surreptitiously without the knowledge of or any assistance from the coal company's staff and as such it is not possible to keep total track of these activities. However, the coal companies are taking the following measures to curb these occurrences:

- (i) To the extent possible exposed coal faces in disused opencast mines have been covered with debris. Trenches have been cut around such opencast mines, wherever required, to make these unapproachable by bullock cart etc. Opening to underground working have also been blocked with debris to prevent access into the mines. Whenever it comes to the notice of colliery authorities that coal faces so blocked have been re-exposed, action is taken to cover the same again.
- (ii) Whenever such activity comes to the notice of the colliery authorities, patrolling by CISF/ Company watch and ward is intensified. At times, raids of such area are also conducted jointly by CISF and the police.
- (iii) At places theft prone areas have been converted into regular mines. Examples of such mines are Bhatdee colliery & Borea colliery in BCCL.
- (iv) Management maintains close liaison with state authorities/police to check such activity.
- (v) Colliery authorities on getting information of any such activity, file FIRs with local police.
- (vi) Regular liaison with state law & order authorities and collection of intelligence.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, my question is very important because this is related to the safety of mines. The Congress party remained in power for 50 years after independence. The coal mines were

nationalised during their period but it is a matter of great pity that they never paid attention towards sketching the map of colliery and particularly sketching of the map of underground mines. ...*(Interruptions)* I am telling you truly, it was never updated. ...*(Interruptions)* You can not tell me about the Coal. Only I can tell. The maps were never updated. Due to this a serious accident occurred in Gajali Tal during their regime in which 96 labourers were drowned, because they did not know the escape route, they have no map, the labourers were not told as to in which direction was the escape route and the escape route was not maintained properly. Therefore the labourers met their painful end by drowning into the water and we could not recover even their bones. Therefore, their insurance could not be decided. Our Government is a welfare Government, but what steps the Government have taken in this direction after coming to power and what they are going to do, so that the security of the mines is maintained and the security of the labourers working in the mines could be ensured? In this regard, my suggestion was that the officers posted in the Coal Ministry, should be sent to study the mines for one month before they are posted in the Ministry and atleast it should be made compulsory to have ten trips in the underground mines upto the very face. Are you going to make it compulsory and considering suggestion, so that the map are updated every three months?

[English]

SHRI DILIP RAY : I must thank the hon. Member to have brought such an important question to the House. As far as I know, this is the first time this question is coming to this Ministry. The hon. Member is a senior Member of the House and belongs to Dhanbad. She knows the answer to this question also.

Coal is an exhausting asset. Regular planning is necessary. This mapping or planning, whatever the hon. Member means, is needed for preservation of coal and for safety of mines. We take into consideration the proximity of the river, railways, highways and other mines for safety reasons.

These plans of the mines are updated once in every three months under the statutory provisions of C.M.R. Act, 1957. This planning or mapping has been done right after nationalisation. The first one was done in 1973-74 where BCCL prepared this plan for 83 collieries.

The second one in 1975 for Moondih and Sudamdih collieries was updated.

The 1976 master plan for Jharia was prepared.

The 1978-79 master plan for BCCL for nine open cast and 21 underground mines was prepared.

In 1997 when BCCL was reorganised, plans were prepared in 13 areas for 89 collieries.

Recently we have taken very strict measures to see that these plans are updated every three months. Earlier, this mine planning used to be a localised affair. Now we have made it more specific and we are coordinating and connecting it to the national grid.

Moreover, we have recently installed GPS, the geophysical positioning system which is the most modern facility available in the world. We are also conducting computerised surveys with the help of a satellite. Right, now, we are mapping 100 kilometers radius of Jharia Coalfields.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to congratulate the Minister of State for Coal through you that he had paid attention towards this after years of neglect because it appears from his reply that the maps prepared in the past were never updated and they are being updating now. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You should not obstruct the hon. lady Member.

[Translation]

SHRI H.P. SINGH : Mr. Speaker Sir, nothing has been said by the Minister about the labourer ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Har Pal Singh, the same applies to you also. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, three-four years back when they were in power, cable pilferage had occurred in Gudakya mine at that time. Such incidence of cable thefts are very frequently occurring there because the maps were not updated. The C.I.S.F. was deputed there to apprehend the thieves. After two days it came to light that cable theft had occurred at another

entrance (Muhana), and then, after another three-four days it came to light that cable pilferage had occurred at another place. In this way the C.I.S.F. were deputed at five places and there was a strict vigil for a month but the thieves had escaped on the third day itself through some other route. The maps were not so updated during your time. What steps are being taken by the Government to check pilferage, illegal mining and criminal incidents occurring due to non-updating of map? In a part of my earlier question it was mentioned that the people have stopped going to underground mines and that is why the preparation of maps have been difficult. In order to streamline this process as our Defence Minister has ordered that the bureaucrats will also have to go to visit remote and difficult areas? I would like to know whether the Minister is going to issue order on similar lines in his Ministry that every officer will have to make atleast ten visits to underground mines.

[English]

SHRI DILIP RAY : Sir, the suggestion of the hon. Member that officers should be sent to underground mines is a good suggestion. I will look into it.

MR. SPEAKER : But what about the Minister!

SHRI DILIP RAY : I must mention here that I have been to all the coal mines, both underground and open cast. I have visited all the mines.

The next question is regarding the theft in the Gutkia mine, which happened in 1995, where there were three cable thefts. From then on, we have been able to recover 120 kilometres of cables from there. If you see the figures of 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98, you will find that there is a reduction in the incidence of thefts. In 1998-99, we have not got a single theft case. 13-14

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is an important issue. ... (Interruptions) Theft of coal is an important issue which has been raised here. This is not only the problem faced by BCCL but even in the ECL areas incidents of theft cases are going on the rise, particularly due to the decision of the Government to close down the collieries and abandonment of the collieries. Incidents of theft are going on even in newer areas where there are coal reserves but the Government is not taking the initiative to extend the exploitation of coal in the ECL areas. This sort of illegal trafficking of coal is on the rise and it is creating a law and order problem in the entire area. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This question is not relating to the illegal trafficking but this is regarding underground mines.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has any specific information regarding increase in theft of coal in the ECL areas. In my district of Birbhum and also in Purulia and Bankura, according to a GSI report, rich coal reserves are there. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Dr. Dome, is that relevant to the present question?

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : May I know whether the Government has any plan to exploit the coal reserves in the new areas particularly in the districts of Birbhum Bankura and Purulia?

SHRI DILIP RAY : The main question is specifically about mapping and planning of BCCL areas. The supplementary question does not relate to that.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : My question is very simple and it is regarding the underground coal mines. There is Singareni Collieries in Khammam District of Andhra Pradesh. Near to that, in Sattupalli also—it is found now and reported—there are mines. May I know whether the maps contain those mines also or not?

SHRI DILIP RAY : The mapping is done in all the mines. In all the subsidiaries of Coal India and Singareni Collieries, it is being done. But the main question relates specifically to BCCL.

SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Alongwith Singareni Collieries, there is this area of Sattupalli where coal mines were found.

SHRI DILIP RAY : It falls under Singareni Coal Fields. That is being done.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR : Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to ask from the hon. Minister through you that many labourers who are engaged in numerous coal mines of Madhya Pradesh have neither been provided any compensation nor given jobs in lieu of their lands acquired for coal industry after its nationalisation. Whether you are going to chalk out any action plan or constitute a group to stop the pilferage of cables and other items going on there and to arrest the Mafia people indulging in such activities.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : No. This is not a relevant question. This question is disallowed. Shri Prabhunath Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, illegal mining is going on in B.C.C.L. and we feel that the Government is aware of it. We would like to know the mafia gangs involved in this illegal mining. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Prabhunath Singh, I have just disallowed the supplementary question of Shri Shailendra Kumar. You have to understand the main question and the relevance of the main question. The main question is not about the illegal mining. It is about the mapping of underground mines.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please listen my question first. ...*(Interruptions)*. It has been asked in last line of the question as to what action have been taken against the officers found guilty of their failure in stopping the illegal mining and pilferage. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, illegal mining is going on in B.C.C.L. and the Government is aware of it. We want to know from the Government about the mafia gangs which are involved in the illegal mining. Whether officials of the Coal India are also involved in it and if it is so then whether or not these mafia gangs and officials have been identified by the Government? If they have been identified then what action has been taken against them?

[English]

SHRI DILIP RAY : We are aware of the illegal coal mining that is taking place in CCL, BCCL and ECL. This takes place either in abandoned or the closed mines of these areas. We have taken action to stop it. CISF is active in that area; we have taken the help of the police

from the State Government. Anyone who is involved in this—either any of our officers or outsiders—is taken care of.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask a specific question as to whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the officers found involved in illegal mining or pilferage, they may be from B.C.C.L., A.C.L. or W.B.C.L., have been trying to get political patronage or making initiative in this regard in order to protect themselves.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I am putting an unambiguous question that whether the efforts being made to get political patronage by the officers involved in illegal mining and pilferage have been in the knowledge of the Government.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It has already been answered.

SHRI DILIP RAY : We do not spare those officers who are involved in such activities.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Mr. Speaker Sir, I want to know through you from the hon. Minister that there are 81 coal mines in Bihar region which are non-profitable as per B.C.C.L. estimate and are closed. At these places where such mines exist influential people take up mining and use cycles and rickshaws. 81 coal mines are closed there. Neither the State nor the Central Government could stop such practice. Your predecessor Coal Minister had taken a decision that the coal mines which have become unprofitable for the B.C.C.L. would be transferred to the State Government. The State would generate employment on the one hand and take care of these mines on the other. When you become the Minister of Coal, did you take pain of consulting the officers sitting in the headquarters to review and know the fate of the decisions taken by your predecessor Coal Minister. These are the mines where illegal mining is going on. People of the whole of Chottanagpur region are deprived of it. I do not know whether people are deceiving or misleading you in misleading the House while making the reply.

[English]

SHRI DILIP RAY : Sir, the suggestion of the hon. Member is under active consideration of the Government.

[Translation]

It is at the stage of transferring these mines to the Mining Development Corporation.

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : It was decided to hand them over to the D.M. or D.C. please tell as to by when it would be done.

PROF. RITA VERMA : This proposal is only for facilitating pilferages ... (Interruptions)

17-23
Loans & Advances
Complaints regarding wrong use
of Loan Amount
Banking

*146. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a tendency to show less amount of loss on account of loans by the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, whether the Government have directed the Reserve Bank of India to instruct the banks for proper implementation of the guidelines prescribed in this regard;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding use of loan money for some other purposes by the borrower than the purpose for which these loans were meant for; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to deal strictly with such complaints?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India introduced prudential norms in 1992 relating to identification of non performing assets on the basis of record of recovery; classification of assets into substandard, doubtful and loss categories. providing against loan losses to the stipulated extent in respect of NPAs as well as income recognition norms advising banks not to take to income account, interest not actually realised on non-performing loan accounts. Cases if any, of non-compliance with the norms

of assets classification, income recognition and provisioning requirements are looked into during the course of Annual Finance Inspections of Reserve Bank of India as also during audit by the statutory auditors.

(c) and (d) While sanctioning loans, the conditions regarding utilisation of loans for the purpose for which it has been sanctioned are stipulated by the banks. Sanctioning Authorities are expected to monitor compliance of such conditions. In specific cases of utilisation of funds for uses other than intended use by way of corrective action, banks can either recall the loan, imposed penal rate of interest or reduce the sanctioned limits. Wherever instances of misapplication of funds come to the notice of the RBI during inspection, the concerned public sector banks are appropriately advised in regard to cases of such misapplication of funds.

[Translation]

DR. ASHOK PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister of Finance how many complaints the Government have received regarding division of funds to purposes other than the ones for which the loans were sanctioned and what action has been taken on those complaints. Whether these complaints have been investigated? If so, what action has been taken against erring officials found guilty during investigation?

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the regulatory body, that is the RBI, during the course of the investigation of the commercial banks acquired some information regarding diversion of funds to purposes other than the ones for which the loans were sanctioned. In such cases the branches concerned are suitably cautioned. If a borrower is found to have diverted working capital funds, the banks recall the amounts so diverted and also charge 2 per cent penal interest. The banks have been instructed to effectively scrutinise the drawings of loans amounting to Rs. 50 lakh and above so as to ensure that the purpose for which the loans are sanctioned is served properly.

[Translation]

DR. ASHOK PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the Government have prepared a comprehensive plan to stop the misuse of Government loans? If so, the number of cases regarding the misuse of loans reduced after the action taken by the Government?