

Unit into a new Company as a subsidiary of IL and Corporate liabilities would not be passed on to the new Company except those relating to the operations of the Palghat Unit.

[Translation]

82 **Facilities to Local People Living Near Mine Areas**

1494. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE : Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to make amendment in rules and regulations to make available facilities to the local people living near the mine areas of the main minerals on the lines of the employees of schools and hospitals set up by the mine owners on the land acquired on lease; and

(b) if so, the time by which the said amendments are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) and (b) Welfare amenities are provided to the employees in the mines and their families such as schools, hospitals, living quarters, creche, etc. under the rules and regulations framed under the Mines Act, 1952 which falls under the purview of the Ministry of Labour and the Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS) under that Ministry.

The Department of Mines has no proposal to make amendments in the rules and regulation to make facilities like schools, hospitals, etc. available to the local people.

[English]

88 **Diesel Run Vehicles**

1495. SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether diesel is being disfavoured on account of its high pollution in transport and generators;

(b) whether despite of this, several new diesel car models are being introduced in the country;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government also propose to introduce two and three wheelers vehicles run on diesel; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) to (e) No Sir. Though diesel may contribute to pollution in high density areas, till alternative cost-effective fuel is available, use of diesel may have to be continued. However, for controlling vehicular, pollution, progressive emission norms at the manufacturers' stage have been notified; cleaner fuels like unleaded petrol, low sulphur diesel and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) are also being gradually introduced. In the liberalised scenario, there is no restriction on the manufacture of diesel cars/two or three wheelers and decisions about manufacture of these are left to the commercial judgement of the entrepreneurs.

Policy for FDI

1496. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken fresh policy initiatives to attract greater inflow of Foreign Direct Investment and advanced technologies from developed countries;

(b) if so, the details of policy changes/modifications announced and response of the foreign investors thereto in terms of number of proposals with quantum of investment received and cleared in general and Maharashtra, in particular;

(c) the details of the progress of ongoing major projects in general and Maharashtra, in particular; and

(d) the details of major proposals pending for approval with locations in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT) : (a) and (b) The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy is being constantly reviewed so as to make it both attractive and investor friendly keeping in mind national priorities. The Government has taken several policy initiatives in that direction, which *inter-alia*, include: delicensing of (i) Coal and Lignite (ii) Petroleum (other than crude) and its distillation products (iii) Sugar Industry and (iv) Bulk Drugs; allowing FDI in Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite (GMPCS) upto 49% and allowing 100% FDI in Power Sector, roads and highways, ports and harbours, under the automatic route provided foreign equity does not exceed Rs. 1500 crore, and setting up of Central Electricity Regulatory Authority.