

*[English]***Pollution by Coal Mines**

5631. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to operation of mines in Basundhara Area of MCL in Sundargarh district of Orissa, there is a possibility of destruction of forest, decrease in water level and threat of pollution in that area;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY): (a) to (c) Only 21.58 ha. of forest land has been taken for mining operation in Basundhara (East) OCP of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) in Sundargarh district of Orissa after getting forestry clearance from the Ministry of Environment & Forests. The mine is almost dry and, hence, there is no possibility of decrease in water level in the area. All possible environmental measures have been taken to keep the environment within standard norms. An approved Environment Management Plan is in operation for Basundhara (East) OCP, which is the only working mine of Basundhara Area. Environmental monitoring is being carried out on a monthly basis by an independent Govt. agency i.e. Central Mining Research Institute, Dhanbad. The report of this agency is neither showing any decrease in water level in the area nor any increase of air/water/noise pollution level beyond permissible limits. 35,000 saplings have been planted in 1997-98 and 50,000 saplings are proposed to be planted in 1998-99 in the area.

Non-Implementation of Central Pay and Allowances in NTC Mills of Maharashtra

5632. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation have been received from the NTC Mill Employees Association in Akola (Maharashtra) regarding non-implementation of Central Pay and Allowance with respect to them, while Pay and Allowance of corresponding employees in other States had already been revised over 12 years;

(b) if so, the reasons for the continued disparity suffered by the Maharashtra (Akola) NTC Mill employees; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken to pay the revised pay and allowance to them alongwith arrears?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) Some representations have been received from NTC Mills Technical & Officers Staff Association, Maharashtra (Akola).

The Technical Supervisory Staff are covered under Bombay Industrial Relations Act, 1948 and their pay scales and services are governed by service conditions applicable to Bombay Cotton Textile Industry settled by awards/agreements

on "Region-Cum-Industry" basis.

The clerical/supervisory mill staff have filed petitions seeking parity in wages with NTC staff. These are pending before the Supreme Court. Another petition has been filed by the Technical and Supervisory Staff in Mumbai High Court. All these petitions are presently sub-judice.

12.01 hrs.

*[English]***PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE****Annual reports, review of the working of Jute Corporation of India Ltd., Indian Jute Industries Research Association, Calcutta etc.**

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the Jute Corporation of India Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1338/98]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, for the year 1996-97.

(ii) Annual Report of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1339/98]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Jute Industries Research Association, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Jute Industries Research Association, Calcutta, for the year 1996-97.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in the Laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1340/98]