

coal have been of the opinion that for advancement determinations, it was necessary to be able to decide pit head value with accuracy, which was not only difficult but could also invite disputes from States as well as major consumers. There would also be anomalies as the old mines with smaller capital investments would generally have lower pit value of production compared to the new mines where capital investment per tonne was much more.

The rates of royalty on coal are fixed on the basis of grades of coal and do not change depending on the State in which the coal is produced.

[English]

#### **Introduction of Liquid Gas**

2058. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce new concept of producing coking gas called 'liquid gas' in the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the advantages of new 'liquid gas' when compared to the present liquified petroleum gas; and

(d) the time by which the liquid gas is likely to be freely available in the market, by whom and the price at which it would be available?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

#### **Import of Paraxylene by I.P.C.L.**

2059. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of paraxylene imported by the Indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd. for the production of DMT and PTA in the country during 1989-90;

(b) the foreign exchange involved in the import of paraxylene;

(c) whether despite a huge quantity of indigenously produced paraxylene being available in the country, Indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd. has finalised a deal with Mitsui of Japan for import of paraxylene;

(d) if so, the quantity of paraxylene being imported through IPCL; and

(e) the reasons for import of paraxylene when indigenously produced paraxylene is available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (e). In order to meet the demand-supply gap, IPCL, as a canalising agency, imported 42199 MT of paraxylene in 1989-90 for producers of DMT. The foreign exchange involved was of the order of 28.419 million US \$. This included two parcels from M/s. Mitsui

#### **Drilling in New Areas**

2060. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Oil and Natural Gas Commission propose to take up exploratory drilling for oil in new areas which have not been adequately explored so far;

(b) if so, the details of the locations identified for the purpose; and

(c) the estimated expenditure involved on the new exploratory activities?