

unionised category of employees of IAAI are not entitled for the relief. The Management of IAAI have, however, recently reached an understanding with the recognised Union to make payment of advance to the employees which will be absorbed in the next wage revision due from 1.9.89.

Substitute for Hard Coke

8789. SHRI MANIK SANYAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute, Dhanbad received any proposal in June, 1989 relating to production of end material as substitute for hard coke for industrial/metallurgical fuel purposes;

(b) whether Government have also received a representation in February, 1990 in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof and whether any decision has been taken thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (d). It has been ascertained from the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI), Ranchi that a research project aimed at finding a substitute for industrial/metallurgical coke by re-constituting Jhama coal had been received

by them from Dr. D. Prasad of Dhanbad in April, 89. He had repeated the proposal in June, 89. CMPDI has intimated that they had sent a communication to Dr. Prasad on 2/3rd May, 1989 conveying that as a project similar to that proposed by him had already been undertaken by Central Fuel Research Institute, Dhanbad, they were unable to support it.

2. Dr. Prasad has submitted a representation on the subject to the Government in February, 90. This is under examination in consultation with the Central Mine Planning and Design Institute, Ranchi and Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., Dhanbad.

Self-Sufficiency in Crude Oil

8790. SHRI K. MURLEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the oil exploration in the country; and

(b) whether there is any chance to achieve self-sufficiency in respect of crude oil in near future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) Exploration for hydrocarbons through geo-scientific surveys and exploratory drilling has been going on in the various sedimentary basins falling within the States of :

Nagaland

Punjab plains and Haryana

Assam

Himachal Pradesh

Tripura

Jammu & Kashmir

Mizoram

Rajasthan

Meghalaya

Gujarat