

mentaries, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that my question was regarding Saoner and Patansaongi blocks to which he has replied ;

[English]

“At present there are seven approved projects in Kamptee coalfield which includes Saoner and Patansaongi blocks. The expected production from these projects in 1985-86 is 1.84 million tonnes,.....”

[Translation]

Therefore, I want to know whether this figure is for seven projects or for Saoner and Patansaongi alone ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It includes all.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : I had specifically asked about Saoner and Patansaongi blocks and the hon. Minister has given the figures about all the seven projects. I want to know the quantum of production in Saoner and Patansaongi blocks during 1985-86 ?

[English]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : The coal reserve in Patansaongi has been estimated at 36 million tonnes under proved category.

[Translation]

Now the mining of coal out of this 36 million tonnes of proved reserves will depend on the quantum and speed of work that will be put there. I do not have exact figures for Patansaongi right now.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was that there was no progress in Saoner and Patansaongi in spite of the fact that huge reserves of coal are available there. The hon. Minister has put the reserves at 36 million tonnes, but according to the official publication which I have got with me, the reserves are estimated at 90 million tonnes. The people from these two blocks had come to us with the demand that employment should be provided to the local people there and the coal reserves be harnessed. It was because of this that I had put a question

specifically about Saonar and Patansaongi and I should get a reply to this question.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : All right. I am giving the reply. In 1985-86, 0.98 million tonnes and in 1989-90 0.09 million tonnes of coal will be mined in Patansaongi.

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Sir, there must be a definite policy of the Government, but it has not been spelt out. There are 500 million tonnes of coal reserves in the district and the Government might have fixed an yearly target to exploit it. How will you manage to exploit it at this speed ? I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what is the policy of the Government ?

MR. SPEAKER : He has already told you about the quantum.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : The policy of the Government is to exploit more and more coal ; as much as possible. Too much target would prove futile.

MR. SPEAKER : Speaking of coal, bad association is bringing bad name.

[English]

SHRI K. S. RAO : With the huge stock of coal available in the country, what are the reasons for the government to import coal from other countries thereby wasting foreign exchange ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We are importing only coking coal required for steel industry, and because we are short of the good quality of coking coal with less ash content, we import only that much which is essential for our steel industry.

Coal Reserves in Madhukunda area of Purulia District (West Bengal)

*324. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large reserve of coal has been found in Madhukunda area of Purulia District (West Bengal) and Geological Survey of India has also submitted its report thereon ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to start any projects in the area ; and

(c) if so, when ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Based on the regional drilling done so far, reserves of 293 million tonnes of coal have been estimated to occur in Madhukunda area. No detailed drilling to establish "proved" reserves has been carried out so far.

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to start any mining project to exploit the above coal reserves.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : The coal which has been found in Madhukunda area in the District of Purulia (West Bengal) is grade on equality of coal, that is coking coal; we are importing coking coal for our steel plants. In view of this, do the government propose to undertake any detailed drilling to find out the exact quantity of reserve of coal in that particular area ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Geological Survey of India has informed that Madhukunda block in the western part of Raniganj, Coalfield in Purulia District of West Bengal, had been explored by erst-while Indian Bureau of Mines and later by National Coal Development Corporation and, as I said, a reserve of 280 million tonnes were estimated in Madhukunda block and 39.67 million tonnes in West of Madhukunda block. In early seventies, GSI had explored Porabila block of Raniganj and there also they found a reserve of 151.63 million tonnes. GSI have informed that these figures may be confirmed from CIL. Coal India Ltd. have informed that based on the regional drilling done by GSI in 5 boreholes in Madhukunda block during 1957-60 and later by IBM, a total of 293 million tonnes of coal reserves were estimated. No detailed drilling in Madhukunda block in the 7th Plan period.

The CIL have further informed that a total of 32 boreholes were drilled in area of 56 sq. km. but the drilling in the CSR was stopped further due to slump in the coal demand. Based on the regional nature of drilling carried on in this area, today, there is no possibility of carrying on any further exercise on coal mining.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Sir, Government want to increase the produc-

tion of coal. In view of this, why do the Government not undertake any new project in the area because already it has been stated that 293 million tonnes of coal reserves are there and we are now producing only 147 million tonnes ? So, I want to know from the hon. Minister, why the Government do not want to start any new mining project in the area in view of the aim of the Government to increase the production of coal in our country.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We have a large programme of starting of coal mining in West Bengal. Substantial investment is proposed, provided other facilities like labour conditions, availability of land and all these are made available, then we will have sufficient coal in West Bengal.

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Setting up of Thermal Power Stations
by N.T.P.C.

*305. **SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :**
SHRI NITYANANDA MISHRA :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation has taken steps to set up thermal power stations in the country ;

(b) if so, the number of thermal power stations set up by NTPC so far ;

(c) the location and capacity of those thermal power stations ; and

(d) how many of those thermal power stations have started power generation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (d) The National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) have been entrusted with the setting up of Super thermal power stations at Singrauli (5 × 200 MW + 2 × 500 MW) in District Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh ; Koroa (3 × 200 MW + 3 × 500 MW) in District Bilaspur, Madhya Pradesh ; Ramagundam (3 × 200 MW + 3 × 500 MW) in district Karimnagar, Andhra Pradesh ; Farakka