

non-conventional power which is not under the Power Ministry. Sir, it is a part of his Power Department

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Of course, this refers to power sector. The hon. Member has said that this relates to power sector. But this question does not arise out of this question. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, I am not satisfied with the answer given by the Minister.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The question is about the generation of power, may be hydel, may be tidal, may be conventional or non-conventional power. All come under the same Ministry (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.A. ANTONY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Kerala is rich in power when the rain is full and sit is the cheapest to produce electricity in the State. But now due to the environmental reasons, Silent Valley is one of the most virgin forests attached by the entire world and that should not be disturbed. So, the only way is to depend upon thermal power and other kinds of power generation. So considering the shortage of power in Kerala, would the hon. Minister assure the House that Kayamkulam thermal station will be cleared immediately and also whether the Government has received the proposal for Tirikiripur thermal project in Kerala? What steps have been taken by the Government in this regard?

SHRI KALPNATH RAI: In Kerala, Kayamkulam project has to be cleared and approved by the Planning Commission. The Forest Department has to clear and their it will be included in the 8th Plan.

Loss of lives due to subsidence in Eastern Coalfields Limited

*371. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHODHARY:
SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be

pleased to state:

(a) The number of places so far identified by the Eastern Coalfields Limited which are critical localities as there has been enormous damage to surface properties and even loss of human lives due to subsidence;

(b) the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to check subsidence as well as to save the properties and human lives there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K.JAFFAR SHARIEF) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). 45 locations in West Bengal have been identified as unsafe areas based on the declaration of West Bengal Govt., DGMS and areas listed by CMPDIL in the Master Plan of Raniganj Coalfield. Details of the areas are given in the Table below.

(c) Step taken to check subsidence include:

- (i) Mining operations are carried out in conformity with the rules and regulations and strictly as per conditions imposed by the DGMS;
- (ii) Extraction below built-in areas is done only in conjunction with stowing;
- (iii) Restricted working/extraction in case of workings under shallow cover;
- (iv) Prohibition of construction activities over areas declared unsafe for habitation.
- (v) Regular follow up and liaison

with the District Authorities has been maintained for evacuation of people from areas declared unsafe.

A Pilot project has been conducted at Ramjibanpur for stabilisation of water filled

voids. The project involved application of innovative methods like stowing of sand and water slurry through boreholes and testing the efficacy of these measures by geophysical methods. This technology is being evaluated and may find application at other places in the Raniganj Coalfields.

Table

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Location</i>
1	2	3
1.	Barakar Town, Plasdanga village Bengunia town.	Church Victoria Area, BCCL
2.	Mahabir Colliery excluding Gowal Bastee	Kunustoria Area, ECL (Mahabir-Colliery)
3.	Fatepur villages and part C.I.Road	Sitarampur Area, ECL (Dhemomain Colliery)
4.	Janakpur Village, Konda Bazar Kulti Foundary, Kulti Workshop	Ramnagar Colliery (IISCO)
5.	Kenda village	Kenda Area, ECL (New Kenda Colliery)
6.	Soabpur village.	Sripur Area.
7.	Chotdhama & Pankiary Village.	Seetalpur Colliery, Sodepur Area.
8.	Aluthia & other villages.	Patmahana Colliery, Sitarampur.
9.	Private Houses near Hindustan - Pilkington Glass Factory.	Ushagram, Asansol.
10.	Bhutdoba/Kalipahari under Road.	Kalipahari Colliery Sripur Area.
11.	Borachak, Raghunathbati, E. Rly. East Baraboni Loop two Santal Bastees.	Ranjibanpur Colliery, Sitarampur Area
12.	Mahabir Colliery Excluding Gowala Bastee.	Mahabir Colliery, KNT Area.
13.	Raniganj Town.	Raniganj Town, KNT Area

1	2	3
14.	Gorpari & Reckitt & Colmen Blue Factory.	Dhappra West Block, Sripur Area.
15.	Janakpur village, Kendau Bazar Kulti Foundary, Kulti town.	Ramnagar Colliery (IISCO)
16.	Kenda village.	New Kenda Colliery, Kenda Area.
17.	Kuldanga village.	Parasea Colliery, KNT Area.
18.	Sanctoria village.	Seetalpur Colliery Sodepur Area.
19.	Santhal Baste.	Balbaid Colliery, KNT Area.
20.	Sodepur village.	Poidih Colliery, Sodepur Area.
21.	Monoharbahal.	Monoharbahal Colliery, Sitarampur Area.
22.	Aluthia & Other village.	Patmchana Colliery, Sitarampur Area
23.	Bahula (Motibazar)/including Kajora-Haripur D. B. Road & Baste.	Bahula Colliery, Kunda Area.
24.	Balsukh ceramics	Salanpur Area.
25.	Barakar town, Palasdanga village, Beguina town.	Chanch Victoria Area (BCCL)
26.	Borachak, Ragunath Baste, E. Rly. East Baronobi Loop, two Santhal Baste.	Ramjibanpur Colliery, Sitarampur Area.
27.	Mahabir Colliery excluding Gowala Baste.	Mahabir Colliery, KNT Area.
28.	Raniganj Town.	Kunustoria.
29.	Chatrisdanga village.	Sripur Colliery, Sripur Area.
30.	Dangarpatti.	Khas Kajora Colliery, Kajora.
31.	Sikarpukur village.	Khas Kajora Colliery, Kajora.
32.	Dhasal village	Krishnanagar Colliery, Kenda.
33.	Fathepur village & Part of G.T. Road.	Dhemomain Colliery, Sitarampur Area.

1	2	3
34.	Haripur vilalge, Raniganj Suri Road.	Haripur Colliery, Kenda Area.
35.	Hurmadanga village.	Jamuraia Colliery, Sripur Area.
36.	Jamuraia Bazar.	—do—
37.	Janakpur village, Kendua Bazar Kulti Foundary, Kulti Town.	Ramnagar Colliery (IISCO).*
38.	Kenda village	New Kenda Colliery, Kenda Area.
39.	Kuardih village.	Kuardih Colliery, Satgram Area.
40.	Palsbon village.	Ghanashyam Colliery, Kajora Area.
41.	Sanctoria village.	Seetalpur Colliery, Sodepur Area.
42.	Santhal Bastee	Belbaid Colliery, KNT Area.
43.	Seebpur village.	Sripur Area.
44.	Sodepur village	Poidih Colliery, Sodepur Area.
45.	Bastee and part of village , Ushagram North of G.T. Raod, Asansol.	New Ghusick Colliery, Sripur Area.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted certain facts. But he has conveniently forgotten to refer to the Ghungani Committee that was appointed some years ago to ascertain about the safety in the coalmines and also a Sub-Committee by name Bagchi Sub-Committee was also appointed specifically to go into the matter of checking subsidence to save the properties and human lives. They identified 166 areas all over the country and out of that in the Ranigunj Area, in the Eastern Coalfield areas, 80 locations were identified. Out of that, 45 are very dangerous and the Bagchi Sub-Committee made 10 recommendations. One of the recommendations is to evacuate the people in the area and shift them to other areas and dismantle the structures that are there over the ground. Since 1973; after the nationalisation of Non-coking

coalfields, 90 cases of subsidence have taken places in the Ranigunj area. Now, you have mentioned here the States where you are undertaking the work to check subsidence.

It has been proved from this fact that it has not been fool-proof. These people in these locations are having problems. What are you going to do to implement that particular aspect so that people from these locations should be taken to some other places? This is a very important aspect considering the human aspect of it. What are you going to do about it?

SHRI C.K.JAFFAR SHARIEF: I entirely agree with the hon. member what he mentioned. So far as that particular aspect which he referred to is concerned, it is a question of

shifting people from the area. On the contrary, the areas are becoming over-populated. So, here it is not merely for the Company to do something for them; it is for the State Government to find a place so that we can be able to send those people there and rehabilitate them. The cooperation of the member in this area is also required to achieve this object.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: It is not a question of putting the blame on the Central Government or the State Government. It is not a natural thing that is happening. We understand about earthquake; we do not have any hand in this. But due to reckless mining, these people are facing this kind of a tragic situation. Who will help them? Who will develop that area which has provided the economic growth for the country? Don't you feel that it is your duty to give them something back also in place of these areas? We have a less concern about who will do it. But if nobody is there to take any responsibility, I will suggest that the production that you are getting there in terms of coal, the entire amount of money which will be earned out of that production should be spent for the development of that area or shifting the people to other places. We make money with the help of those people who are working there but we do not bother about them

SHRI C.K.JAFFAR SHARIEF : Again I welcome the concern of the hon. member. It is true that somebody should own the responsibility. The hon. member was saying about the wealth of that place, the natural resources which are being tapped there. He should not forget this fact that the government nationalised coal mines because of unscientific mining.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: It has not been stopped even after that

SHRI C.K.JAFFAR SHARIEF: Please bear with me. The government nationalised these coalmines because of unscientific mining management which has led to this problem. Now, so far as profits are con-

cerned, even the State Government is getting loyalty, cess and what not. It is a question of the joint responsibility. I would not say that only the State Government should do about them. We are here to cooperate with the State Government to the extent possible. But, so far as finding a place for them is concerned, I cannot go and find out a place where it is available; it is for the State Government to come forward and do it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: From the answer it is very much clear that the government is not so serious to tackle this problem of subsidence, although a number of committees have been appointed. I visited the area personally. I have seen the plight of the people there. I have seen the smoke emitting from the houses, cracks and walls of the pucca buildings; I have seen it from Raniganj upto Sakturia, the Headquarters of ECL. He has stated 45 locations in West Bengal, although we have asked for the total number of dangerous areas in ECL; in ECL and Bihar also there are some dangers areas; perhaps you do know about them. I have asked a question what steps have been taken to check subsidence. Now the sand stowing which is essential to prevent subsidence is not done. Coal is being extracted and sometimes mining is left abandoned also; unscientific mining and slaughter mining is still going on even after nationalisation of coal-mines.

So, this is a national problem, wherein you have prepared a master plan for Jharia Coalfields. Why are you not preparing the same for Raniganj which is the oldest coalmine in our country? One lakh people are affected there. Many I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any plan for Raniganj and the areas which are now being subsided. Every day such incidents take place. So, is there any plan or any proposal for Raniganj coalfields to be shifted? Like Jharia coalfields have you prepared any plan to shift? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.K.JAFFAR SHARIEF: I am very happy about my hon. friend Mr. Basudeb Acharia's question.

MR. SPEAKER: You are happy about Shri Acharia's elaborate question.

SHRI C.K.JAFFAR SHARIEF: As a Member of Parliament belonging to the area he might have visited. But I am sure, he will be glad to know that I also visited the area.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: During by-election.

SHRI C.K.JAFFAR SHARIEF: No, not during by-election. I even went to the extent of visiting an underground mine about 1300 ft down to see the working conditions of the people and the workers were emotional when I went and saw them to find out how they were working (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA: Did they beat you up?

SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF: Please bear with me. It is very easy to ... (*Interruptions*)

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Everybody has one's own personal experience when one goes to meet workers (*Interruptions*)

SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF: My point was that what we share here on the floor of the House to make it appear in the press and try to gain popularity is one thing. If you can go and share with the workers there on the spot, it make a lot of difference.

I would like to say that on Jheria coalfields what he has said is correct. They are doing it. It is the question of the magnitude of the problem and the responsibility. Therefore, the Government is spending nearly Rs. 24 crores every year for the subsidence. We have recently come out with a new project which has been tried. The project involves the technique of Hydro Pneumatic Stowing in which a sand and water slurry is pumped underground through surface boreholes and the spread of this slurry is monitored by geophysical method. It is something like making a paste and pushing it through the holes. It is

on an experimental basis. Once it is done, we will continue to go ahead and then try to complete it.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI: The hon. Minister has said that the policy of coal nationalisation was for better mine management. But is he aware of another kind of a problem that in some areas of Assam because of open cast mining the topography has been destroyed and the environment has been polluted? I had the occasion to write even to the Prime Minister about it, enclosing some reports from some science experts. But except for the acknowledgement which we normally get, the reply has not followed it. I was promised in this House by Shri Vasant Sathe that he will enquire and let us know about it. May I know whether any inquiry has been made in this regard and what is the outcome of that inquiry?

SHRI C.K.JAFFAR SHARIEF: Sir, in fact the other days some Member, had come from Assam. We told them that we very much wanted to go over there and hold discussions and see what best we can do. This is not the problem only confining to Assam. Wherever open cast mines are there, this kind of problem will be there. But it is our endeavour to see how best we can be able to help. I assure that after this monsoon we are prepared to go there and see the conditions, and try to sit with the State Government and see what best we can do.

[*Translation*]

Demand of Coal in Industrial Sector

*372. SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA†:
SHRI RAM DHAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal producing organisations are unable to meet the increasing demand of coal of the industrial sector in the country;