

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: This is a very important question and this is a very relevant point. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, when the Janata Government was there, the Chavda Committee was appointed to go comprehensively into this whole subject. Now, that report has been submitted to the Government. How many recommendations of Chavda Committee have been accepted by the Government and whether they are determined to implement all those suggestions made by the Chavda Committee on this? Whatever the hon. Minister says, life-saving drugs are not available to the common man. From that view point I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the recommendations of the Chavda Committee have been accepted by the Government and whether the hon. Minister will be prepared to place the Chavda Committee report on the Table of the House.

SHRI P. C. SETHI: This is a specific question about shortage of drugs. If the hon. Member wants to know about the Chavda Committee recommendations, that can be a separate question.

MR. SPEAKER: You can come up.

SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA: This is a completely evasive reply. How many of the recommendations have been accepted and implemented? What are they? Let us know.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mukunda Mandal.

Augmentation of Rate of Coal Mining in Mejhia

*25, **SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state the progress so far efforts of Coal India Ltd. In augmented by Government to step up the entering the rate of mining of coal from Mejhia in support of a power station?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI

VIKRAM MAHAJAN): Kalidaspur mining project in Mejhia block is expected to be sanctioned shortly. The project envisages an investment of Rs. 23.89 crores and on completion is expected to yield 0.58 million tonnes of coal per annum. The initial production is expected from 1983-84 and the Project is likely to achieve targeted capacity on the 7th year i.e. in 1987-88.

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: According to C.M.P.D.I. and G.S.I. the coal reserves of Boijora region and particular from Mejhia are come to nearly 200 million tonnes. Again, the quality of the coal in the Mejhia area is suitable for a thermal power project. I want to know from the Minister whether the Government propose to set up a thermal power plant at Mejhia in Bankura district.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: A proposal was received from the DVC which was backed by West Bengal Government for setting up a 600 and odd MW power house in this region. The coal reserves which have been identified and which are mineable at present for the next ten years show that the mine which has been sanctioned would give about or a little more than half a million tonne of coal per annum. Another mine would give about a million tonnes. It is not enough for a coal-fired thermal power station of 600 and odd MW capacity. But the main reason is that the coal that has been found is of a superior grade quality which is meant for industries and so forth. For the power sector, we need coal of an inferior grade. As we are short of superior grade coal, this cannot be used for that purpose. For the next 12 to 16 years, we can only mine the superior grade coal which is in the upper layers. Lower grade coal lies in the lower layers and so far the next 12 to 16 years we cannot use these mines for the power sector. That is the main reason.

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: I think the Minister is misinformed because...

MR. SPEAKER: Are you giving information or seeking information?

SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: coal from the Bankura area is not of a good quality; it is not of metallurgical quality. It is to be used for thermal power project. The report of the Geological Survey of India says:

"From the qualitative data of the coal in Mejhia area obtained in course of the regional investigation, it appears that this can be utilised for thermal power generation, other steam-raising purposes, brick-burning and for domestic uses. A sizeable rearserve of coal obtainable from this area may make this a potential source for power-coal for the Santaldih Thermal Power Plant located about 64 km to the west or any other plant that may be set up nearby. The coal of this area may partly cater to the needs of Durgapur-Raniganj-Asansol industrial belt if bulk transport of coal across the Damodar Riever can be arranged".

so, the argument advanced by the Minister is not true. In view of this, may I know whether the Cabinet Minister, Mr. Ghani Khan Chaudhuri assured the pepole that this power plant will be set up at Mejhia? What is the reaction of the Ministry to the GSI report from which I have just quoted?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: The Cheif Minister of West Bengal met the Minister in July, 1981 and all these points were explained to him. Thereafter, the matter was not brought up again by West Bengal Government. So far as the question of utilisation of superior grade coal for the power sector is concerned, I have not said that this superior grade coal

cannot be used. Good quality coal can also be used for power but the point I was making was that superior grade coal is required for industry and we are short of superior grade coal inferior quality coal of 60 to 70 per cent is lying underneath and for the next 12 to 16 years, we can only mine superior grade coal which is at the higher level. Thereafter, inferior grade coal may come. I never said that superior grade coal cannot be used for power. What I said was, it should not be used for that.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: The Geological Survey of India in its report has categorically stated that there is a high grade quality and sufficient quantity of coal in Mejhia which can be used for thermal power. You know, Sir, that the eastern region, particularly Bihar and West Bengal, is starving for power. The Minister Mr. Khan Chowdhury has categorically stated that a thermal power plant will be set up in Mejhia coalfields. He has also said that a thermal power plant of 600 mw would need sufficient quantity of coal. If enough coal is not available there, what is the difficulty in getting up a thermal power plant of 200mw in Mejhia so that both Bengal and Bihar can get power from there? I also want to know whether other coalfields in Mejhia will also be commissioned.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: I have repeatedly stated in my earlier answers that this coal is not enough for 600 mw thermal power station which has been recommended by the DVC. It is not a proposal of West Bengal Government. They are only supporting the DVC proposal.

The superior grade coal is in the upper layer. It has to be mined first. It cannot be used for power plants because we are short of superior grade coal. Therefore, for the next 12 to 16 year, we cannot in-superior quality of coal. Thereafter inferior quality of coal can be mined which is in the lower layer. So, for

the next 12 to 16 years no power station can use this coal.

Regarding setting up a 200 mw power station, no such proposal has been submitted by either of the Governments. Therefore, this point has not been considered so far.

The Chief Minister of West Bengal has met the Minister of Coal and Energy in July. He gave all the points in writing to the Government of West Bengal. Thereafter, they have not raised this issue because they have understood the problem.

If any alternative proposal is made, it will be examined.

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: There is a confusion between the two hon. Members and the Minister. The GSI report has mentioned about regional proving. It means it is a preliminary investigation of a big chunk. It cannot give a detailed answer. May I know whether after the regional proving, the GSI or any other organisation dealing with coal exploration programme has taken up detailed study of the upper steam coal. If so, what is the percentage of ash in that coal? Is it thermal grade or metallurgical grade?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: So far as the Geological Survey of India is concerned, they have identified three isolated coal deposits. One is Kalikapur and Kalidaspur blocks covering 9 sq. km. They have estimated that ultimately there is a possibility of 47 million tonnes of coal reserves. The next is Ardhaagram block covering an area of 9.4 sq. km. It is under exploration yet. We have not finalized it. According to estimates, it is likely to be about 80 million tonnes. 30 per cent of the quantity of these two reserves are superior grade coal. They are on the upper layers, as I have already mentioned. One mine we have already sanctioned. It will produce half a million tonnes of coal. The second mine, which is likely to be develop-

ed, is on the ground. It is being planned for one million tonnes. This is the information from the Geological Survey of India.

SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY: Arising out of the answer given by the hon. Minister, would he please make clear what he means by "superior" or "inferior" when he refers to the terminology of the quality of coal?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: "Superior" means a quality which has "a high volatile content." It gives more energy. It is used in industries. A quality which is higher than that is used for steel plants.

SHRI ANANDA GOPAL MUKHOPADHYAY: The technology of coal has got different terminology for classifying "superior" and "inferior" coal. Can the hon. Minister tell the House what is the exact quality of coal, which has been found at Kalidaspur and Ardhaagram, according to analysis?

MR. SPEAKER: It does not arise out of this.

World Bank's Unwillingness to release funds for Super Thermal Power Projects

*27. **PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA:**

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has expressed its unwillingness to release funds for the four Super Thermal Power Projects of the National Thermal Power Corporation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) its likely impact on the projects; and

(d) the steps contemplated by Government in the matter?