

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b). Government propose to issue of Environmental Policy Statement as part of the National Conservation Strategy.

Yamuna Action Plan

1619. SHRI BANWARILAL PUROHIT:
SHRI NARSINGRAO SURYAVANSHI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to launch Yamuna action plan to cleanse the river on the lines of Ganga action Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the work is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c). The issue of taking up River Action Plans for rivers other than Ganga is under consideration of the Government.

Export of Coal to Bangladesh

1620. SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted the Mineral Development Corporation of Meghalaya to export coal to Bangladesh

against dollar payment during the current year from privately held mines of Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether coal reserves of Meghalaya had remained unexploited due to primitive surface methods; and

(d) the steps taken for optimum utilisation of coal mines in Meghalaya?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAM DAS PATEL): (a) and (b). With a view of facilitating increased exports of Meghalaya coal to Bangladesh, the Government decided to exempt export of Meghalaya coal, when exported by Meghalaya Mineral Development Corporation, from canalisation through MMTC.

(c) Meghalaya coal occurs in isolated small pockets and coal mining there is being carried on by the tribal population on a cottage industry basis with the knowledge of the State Government. The State Government has plans to undertake mining through the State Mining Corporation.

(d) Coal India Limited have approved Simsong Exploratory Mining Project. Once the Exploratory Mining Project gets implemented and the results are found to be positive, commercial scale mining operation can be taken up and coal from this mine is linked to the proposed Garo Hills Thermal Power Project, Meghalaya.