

(c) No Sir, the then Minister of Industry had only stated that the matter was under consideration.

(d) As the decision was taken by the Government in the interest of efficient implementation of the various projects, the question of any enquiry does not arise.

Substitution of Furnace Oil with Coal

*764. SHRI PRADYUMNA BAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the efforts of textile mills to substitute furnace oil with coal have not made any progress;

(b) reasons for the slow progress in oil substitution; and

(c) reaction of Government thereto and efforts being made to ensure speedy substitution of oil with coal?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN) (a) With the increase in production of coal and the easy availability of rail movement facilities, some progress has been achieved in the substitution of furnace oil by coal in the textile industry. In 1975-76, four mills had switched over from furnace oil to coal and in 1976-77 this number rose to 14.

(b) The rate of progress of switch over from furnace oil to coal has been somewhat slow owing to the following factors:

(i) Laws relating to atmospheric pollution.

(ii) The substantial investment required for change over to mechanical firing and installation of dust collection devices to keep air pollution within permissible levels.

(iii) The long delivery period for equipment required for conversion and for new coal-fired boilers.

(iv) The lack of space for storage of coal by textile mills located in congested areas.

(v) The need to find outlets for the consumption of surplus LSHS, particularly in Western India.

(c) The following steps have been undertaken to remove the constraints encountered in substitution of furnace oil by coal:

(1) At the request of the Department of Coal a Working Group has been set up by Government of Maharashtra to carry out a detailed examination of the permissible levels of atmospheric pollution.

(2) Data has been collected on the requirement of funds for switch over of boilers from fuel oil to coal and the matter is being taken up with the financial institutions in order to make funds available to units willing to convert to coal.

(3) A scheme has been drawn up for operation of suitable coal dumps in the vicinity of textiles mills to overcome the problems of shortage of storage space.

(4) Attempts are being made to identify the engineering firms who would be in a position to undertake the conversion of boilers from oil firing to coal firing on a turn-key basis.

Survey for Development of Industries in Assam

*765. SHRIMATI RENUKA DEVI BARKATAKI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted to accord priority to the development of industries in the backward and tribal (plains & hills) areas of Assam; and

(b) whether the State Government has sent any recommendation about issuing licences and letters of intent for setting up industries in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES) (a) Yes Sir. Industrial potentiality surveys of areas of Assam have been conducted by various organisations e.g. Small Industries Development Organisation, Industrial Development Bank of India, National Industrial Development Corporation, etc.

(b) The State Government recommended 68 cases for issue of licences and letters of intent for setting up industries in backward and tribal areas in Assam since 1970 to 1977 (upto June).

भोपाल-नागपुर राष्ट्रीय राजमार्ग

*766. श्री सुभाष झाड़ा: क्या नौबहन और परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा