

The reasons for slight fall in the ratio of profits to gross turnover during 1969-70 are (i) higher charge of depreciation, as compared to earlier years, due to revision in rates of depreciation adopted by the corporation arising out of changes in the income tax rates of depreciation and (ii) comparatively higher under-recoveries on sales tax and freight.

Fire in Kargali Pits, BNK Zone of NCDC in Bihar

*553. SHRI S. KUNDU : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether fire broke out in Kargali Pits BNK Zone of National Coal Development Corporation in Bihar in the month of August, 1970 ;

(b) the extent of fire, loss and damage sustained on account of it;

(c) whether such things had been continuing for the last many years inside that Pit ; and

(d) whether any enquiry to the causes of the fire was instituted and the responsibility fixed on any of its employees, if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS, AND MINES & METALS (SHRI NITI RAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY) :
(a) On 16.8.70 a fire was detected in the mouth of the galleries at the edge of an exhausted quarry.

(b) There was no direct loss or damage due to the fire but an amount of about Rs. 2 lakhs was spent on preventive measures.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Chairman National Coal Development Corporation, has constituted a Committee of Senior Technical Officers to investigate the matter.

Sulphur Deposits Found in Rajasthan and Gujarat

*554. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA :
SHRIMATI SUCHETA
KRIPALANI :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS to be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has seen the Press Reports in the *Nav Bharat Times* dated the 12th November, 1970 wherein it has been stated that deposits of Sulphur have been found on the border of Rajasthan and Gujarat, which are likely to be the biggest deposits in the world ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINCH CHAUDHARY) :
(a) and (b). The Press report in *Nav Bharat Times* dated 12. 11. 1970 refers to sulphide deposits and not Sulphur deposits. A multi-metal sulphide ore deposit in Ambamata-Deri Belt on Rajasthan-Gujarat border containing 5.5 million tonnes of ore reserve with 10.8 per cent lead-zinc and copper has so far been established by the Geological Survey of India. Ambamata area is in Gujarat State and Deri area is in Rajasthan. Further investigation is in progress.

Aluminium Development Programme During Fourth Plan

*555. SHRI HIMATSINGKA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS AND MINES & METALS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the aluminium development programme envisaged under the Fourth Five Year Plan ; and

(b) the details of the new schemes to be implemented under the Fourth Plan in the public sector and private sector, including the expansion schemes envisaged under the programme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS, AND MINES & METALS (SHRI NITIRAJ SINGH CHAUDHARY) :
(a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See. No. LT-4492/70*]