

Bank has been instructed by the Reserve Bank of India not to dispose of the share in Jokai Holdings without its prior approval.

(f) Government in the Ministry of Finance has not received any proposal from the Government of Assam in this regard.

**Violation of Excise Rules by M/s.
Indian Metal and Ferro Alloys
Ltd. Orissa**

4604. SHRI SITARAM J. GAVALI :
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether M/s Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys Ltd. Orissa have been manufacturing charge chrome without required licence and permission of Union Government; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action against the firm for violation of Central Excise Act and the rules made thereunder ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). M/s. Indian Metals and Ferro Alloys Ltd., Orissa, have been given a Central Excise Licence for the manufacture of charge chrome in August 1983. A notice to amend the said licence has been issued to the Company under the provisions of Central Excise law.

Underground fires in Coal Mines

4605. SHRI B. B. RAMAIAH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether underground fires are raging in coal mines for long;

(b) if so, the total estimated losses suffered so far due to these underground fires; and

(c) the corrective steps taken or proposed to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir. There are some underground fires in collieries of Bharat Coking Coal Limi-

ted most of which occurred prior to nationalisation of Coal Mines. These fires are being kept under control by sealing and other suitable measures.

(b) About 0.115 m.t. of coal is estimated to have been lost due to underground fires. However, certain reserves of coal are locked up for sometime and will be recovered for extraction as soon as conditions within the sealed off areas permit.

(c) The following corrective steps have been taken to control the underground fires.

I. For existing underground fires :

(i) The underground fires have been sealed by construction isolation/fire stoppings around the affected areas.

(ii) Atmosphere behind the stoppings is regularly monitored to ascertain the condition of fire.

(iii) Strengthening of the stoppings, flushing inert gas (nitrogen, carbon-dioxide) behind the stoppings, injection of bentonite/cement in the affected areas etc.

II. To prevent occurrence of underground fire :

In order to prevent occurrence of underground fires precautions, as prescribed in the Coal Mines Regulations, like formation of penals, use of fire resistant materials underground extraction with stowing etc. are taken. In case if any fires occur prompt and effective measures are taken to deal with the situation by adopting all modern fire fighting techniques viz.

(a) Sealing off the area by means of fire stoppings.

(b) Injection of carbon Dioxide (CO₂) or nitrogen to the seat of fire.

(c) Injection of bentonite and cement in the pillars near fire stoppings.

(d) Stowing of sand in the galleries.