

(c) No separate guidelines have been issued to the States by the REC in this regard as the matter falls within the purview of the State Governments /State Electricity Boards.

[English]

Foreign assistance for development of Collieries in Andhra Pradesh

4629. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of collaboration agreements concluded by the Department of Coal with foreign Governments for assistance to coal industry ;

(b) whether the schemes are under implementation on schedule;

(c) the projects completed so far with foreign collaboration and the results thereof ; and

(d) whether foreign assistance is being sought for development of collieries in Andhra Pradesh to augment production and also to meet the increasing coal demand of consumers in Southern region ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Schemes for transportation of coal by Slurry Pipelines

4630. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a scheme for the transportation of coal by the slurry pipelines in the country from coalfields to the consumers ;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken by Government in this respect ;

(c) the progress made so far ; and

(d) the time by which this system is likely to be introduced ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). The preparation of a detailed project report for a demonstration coal slurry pipeline project from New Majri Opencast mine to Chandrapur Thermal Power Station of Maharashtra State Electricity Board has been taken up. Engineers (India) Ltd. have been engaged to prepare the report. The actual demonstration project will be taken up on the basis of this report.

Setting up of new Industries in Konkan region

4631. PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special study has been made by Union Government regarding the setting up of appropriate type of industries in the backward Konkan region of Maharashtra without disturbing the ecological balance in the region ;

(b) if so, what is the nature and degree of industrialisation that has been proposed ; and

(c) what is the concrete time-bound programme evolved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Extraction of Petrol from Coal

4632. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any experiment has been made to extract petrol from coal ; and

(b) if so, the result achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Research and Development on different aspects of conversion of coal to liquid fuels has been