

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES) (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) to (c). A special Tripartite Committee under the chairmanship of MOS (Labour) has been set up. This Committee is examining all cases of sickness at sectoral level as well as at unit level so as to arrive at a consensus of various affected parties about future of those PSUs and the workers employed in them. Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction also takes into consideration the financial, managerial and technical strengths and weaknesses before framing suitable schemes.

[*Translation*]

Requirement of 'Savin' Pesticide

2212. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VERMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the average annual requirement and production of "Savin" pesticide in the country; and

(b) the locations of factories producing 'Savin' pesticide in the country and the manner how the Government propose to fill the gap between demand and production thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS: (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b). "Sevin" is the brand name give by Union Carbide to Carbaryl, a technical pesticide. This item was manufactured by the Company at their plant in Bhopal. After the closure of the plant, "Sevin" is not manufactured in India. The requirement of Carbaryl Technical was estimated at 1600 TPA during 1991-92. The entire requirement of this pesticide is being met through imports, at present.

[*English*]

Pollution by RCF

2213. SHRIRAMNAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. was prosecuted by the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board last year;

(b) if so, the reasons for the prosecution;

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by RCF to reduce the pollution;

(d) whether the pollution is now under permissible limits; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) This was because RCF marginally exceeded the limits of emission of oxides of nitrogen, in their old nitric acid plant, on a few occasion in September, 1990.

(c) RCF have automatic systems for monitoring stack emissions. Corrective action, including plant shut-down if necessary, is taken immediately the permissible limits are exceeded.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Industries on Rare Earth Sands in Andhra Pradesh

2214. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Rare Earths Limited has proposed to set up some indus-

tries based on rare earth sands in the coastal Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b). Preliminary feasibility studies for setting up of a mining and mineral separation unit near Bhimilipatnam in Andhra Pradesh for production of minerals such as Ilmenite, Rutile, Zircon, Monazite, etc. is being carried out. Setting up of the project will depend upon the techno-economic viability and utilisation of Lemnite by down-stream industries.

(c) Does not arise.

Fire in Jharia

2215. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRIMATI MALINI CHATTACHARAYA:
SHRIBHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:

Will the MINISTER OF COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the project for extinguishing the 20 years old fires raging in Jharia and other collieries in the Eastern region;

(b) the estimated cost for putting out the fires presently;

(c) the steps being taken to put out these fires;

(d) whether the Government have taken an final decision regarding UNDP assistance in putting out the fire; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIS.B. NYAMMA-GOUDA): (a) to (c). The main problem of fires exists in Jharia Coalfield of Bharat Coking Coal Limited. There were 70 fires in Jharia coalfield covering area of 17.32 sq.kms., since a long-time before nationalisation of coking coal mines. The first fire in this coalfield was reported in the year 1916.

After nationalisation of the coking coal mines in 1971, BCCL have formulated 22 schemes for dealing with major fires in the Jharia Coalfield. Total amount sanctioned for these schemes is Rs.114.57 crores out of which a sum of Rs.73 crores have already been spent, and these are under different stages of implementation. As a result of these efforts, 5 fires have been fully extinguished. In addition, at 3 sites the protective measures required to deal with the fires have been completed and it will take some more time before these fires are completely extinguished. At 13 other sites fires have been contained and further work to completely extinguish these fires is in progress. Effective monitoring of the progress of fire projects for improvement of the effectiveness of the control of fire operations is being done. The dimensions of the problem of Jharia Coalfield fires being very large it is difficult to indicate the exact amount of funds required for dealing with these fires.

In addition to the fires in Jharia Coalfield of BCCL, there were also some minor fires in Eastern Coalfields Limited, Central Coalfields Ltd., in the eastern region. Some of these fires have already been effectively dealt with, while action is being taken to control the remaining fires.

(d) and (e). One project for dealing with coalfield fires has been posed for UNDP assistance which aims at identification of methodology for extinguishing the fires.

Physical Quality of Life Index

2216. SHRI RAM NARESH SINGH: Will