

of non-coking coal mines on 1st May, 1973 ranged between Rs. 31.45 and Rs. 48.00 per tonne for different grades and sizes. The current prices of coking coal range between Rs. 63.10 and Rs. 100.80 per tonne and those of non coking coal range between Rs. 37.90 and 79.50 per tonne, for different grades and sizes.

(c) Yes, Sir. The loss of Coal India Limited during the current year is estimated at about Rs. 140 crores.

Issue of Identity Cards to Voters

4968. DR. P. V. PERIASAMY : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the States in which the Election Commission has issued identity cards to the voters; and

(b) whether before the next General Election in all the States this system of issuing identity cards would be adopted "

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATHAK : (a) and (b). The system of issuing identity cards to the voters has not been introduced by the Election Commission in any State so far. The Commission proposes to try the scheme of issue of photographed identity cards to voters in the forthcoming general election to the Sikkim

Legislative Assembly, as an experimental measure. The question of adopting the system in elections in other States/Union territories will be examined after the results of the experimental measure in Sikkim are available.

समाचार एजेंसियों को दिया गया अनुदान

4970. डा० रामजी सिंह : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार ने विभिन्न समाचार एजेंसियों को कितनी अनुदान राशि दी है ;

(ख) क्या यह मंच है कि क्षेत्रीय तथा हिन्दी समाचार एजेंसियों को दिए गए अनुदान की तुलना में अंग्रेजी समाचार एजेंसियों को अधिक अनुदान दिया गया है और यदि हाँ, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ; और

(ग) क्या इससे राष्ट्र की भाषा के विकास में सहायता मिलेगी ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री लाल कृष्ण शहावाणी) : (क) 1977-78 और 1978-79 के दौरान चार समाचार एजेंसियों को निम्नलिखित अनुदान दिए गए थे :—

(लाख रुपयों में)

1. पी० टी० आई०	24.90*
2. यू० एन० आई०	16.63
3. हिन्दुस्तान समाचार	14.40@
4. समाचार भारती	11.64@

(*पी० टी० आई० को 3.30 लाख रुपए की लागत के पूल ट्रान्समिशन के खर्च सहित)

(@हिन्दुस्तान समाचार और समाचार भारती को भाषायी सेवा के विकास के लिए क्रमशः 3.50 लाख रुपए तथा 3.46 लाख रुपए सहित)

अनुदान उनके वेतनों में कमी पूरी करने और पुनर्वास में सहायता के लिए सरकार की वचनबद्धता के अनुसार इन चारों की सहायता के रूप में दिए गए थे ।

(ख) जी, हाँ। अनुदान उन संघटनों के प्रकार के आधार पर समाचार एजेंसियों की आवश्यकताओं से संबंधित है।

(ग) दो भाषायी समाचार एजेंसियों को दिए गए अनुदान का एक भाग इस उद्देश्य में सहायता देने के लिए रिलीज किया गया था।

Setting up New Thermal Power Stations in Gujarat

4971. SHRI AMAR SINGH V. RATHAWA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has approved any proposal for setting up new

Thermal Power Station in Gujarat State during the Sixth Plan period;

(b) if so, the number of such plants and site selected; and

(c) their production capacity?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Planning Commission has approved the following proposals for installation of thermal power stations in Gujarat State during the Plan period 1978-83:

Name of the thermal project	Location	No. of & capacity (MW)
Ukai Thermal Power Station Units No. 3 & 4	Ukai	2 x 200 MV
Ukai Thermal Power Station Unit No. 5	Ukai	1 x 210 MW
Wanakbori Thermal Power Station St I	Wanakbori	3 x 210 MW
Wanakbori Thermal Power Station Stage II	Wanakbori	3 x 210 MW

Exploration of Heavy Minerals on Indian Coast

4972. SHRI R.V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of STEEL & MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India plans to explore in the near future location of reserves of heavy minerals on the Indian coast;

(b) if so, whether any investigation was made in this regard;

(c) what are the plans to explore heavy minerals and;

(d) whether any foreign assistance will be called for?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK):

(b) Surveys carried out along the Indian coast by the Geological Survey of India have been indicated occurrences of black sand comprising heavy minerals like ilmenite, monazite, zircon, rutile and

garnet along the coast of Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

(c) During the Annual Plan of the Geological Survey of India for 1978-79 it is proposed to carry out investigations for ilmenite and other heavy minerals from the black sands off Ratnagiri coast.

(d) There is no proposal under consideration at present.

Plans to Switch over to FM BAND Broadcasting

4973. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans to switch over to FM band broadcasting in the next two years;

(b) if so, the steps taken to obtain FM bands against the existing AM bands frequencies for various AIR stations;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the cost of switch over for ordinary radio receivers?