

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Wastage of Rejected Coal/Slurry

*245. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether a huge quantum of rejected coal and slurry emitted from Bharat Coking Coal Limited and other subsidiaries of Coal India Limited are being wasted;

(b) if so, the total stock of such coal and slurry lying in different subsidiaries of CIL at present;

(c) the reasons for not selling the same and the amount of financial loss suffered by CIL as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Government are aware that a large stock of rejected coal and slurry lying in the collieries is being stolen with the nexus of management and C.I.S.F.;

(e) if so, whether the Government are considering to sell or auction such rejected coal/slurry;

(f) if so, the details thereof indicating the steps proposed to be taken in this direction; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) No, Sir, However, some quantity of slurry and washery rejects has accumulated over a period of time in different washeries of Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) and Central Coalfields Limited (CCL) because these products do not have a regular market.

(b) The stock of slurry and washery rejects in different subsidiaries of CIL is as under:

(Figs. in million tonnes)
(Provisional)

Company	Stock (as on 1.4.98)	
	Slurry	Rejects
BCCL	1.440	6.978
CCL	1.109	7.912
WCL	0.530	-

(c) These products do not have regular market and in spite of best efforts to sell these through Liberalised Sales Scheme, there is only a limited off-take of this coal. CIL have reported that there is no financial loss except loss of 10% of the valuation of the stock on quality grounds.

(d) Coal India Limited management are taking all steps in coordination with the State Government to stop theft of coal from the coalfields.

(e) to (g) As an experimental measure the BCCL has approved a scheme to sell rejects and slurry by auction through bids.

[English]

Proposals by ADB to Speed up Infrastructural Projects

*246. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Asian Development Bank suggested speeding up of the infrastructure projects in the country as a condition precedent to increase its aid;

(b) if so, the details of the ADB proposals; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

IPR Appeal

*248. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has lost Intellectual Property Right appeal at World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the extent to which it will affect India's trade; and

(d) the steps the Union Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (d) On a complaint filed by the United States of America against India before the World Trade Organisation (WTO), and after going through the dispute settlement procedure, the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the WTO requested India to bring its legal regime for patent protection of pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products into conformity with obligations under Article 70.8 (provision of mail box facilities for receipt of applications for product patents) and 70.9 (grant of exclusive marketing rights for such products) of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS Agreement). Under Article 65 of the TRIPS Agreement, India, as a developing country member, has a transition period of ten years from 1st January, 1995 to extend product patenting to pharmaceutical and agricultural chemical products. However, Articles 70.8 and 70.9 of the TRIPS Agreement entail certain transitional obligations with regard to providing a means by which applications for product patents for pharmaceu-