

(d) if not, the reasons for delay in approving the project?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The feasibility report of the project for installation of two units of 210 MW units in State-II at Ramagundam Thermal Power Station (at an estimated cost of Rs. 679.5 cores) was received in the Central Electricity Authority in September, 1989, from the Andhra Pradesh State Electricity Board. The proposal could be techno-economically appraised by the CEA only after all the essential inputs, such as water and coal availability etc. are tied up and necessary clearances, including clearance from the environmental angle are obtained by the State authorities.

Fire in Oil and Gas Wells in Tripura

2087. SHRI D. AMAT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a devastating fire broke out in the oil gas wells in Tripura during exploration by the ONGC in February, 1990;

(b) if so, the details of loss of life and property and the estimated loss of oil/gas as a result thereof; and

(c) the precautions being taken by the ONGC to avert such incidence of fire in the oil/gas wells?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) On March 8, 1990, there was an uncontrolled flow of gas and water from Tichna well No. 3 (on Tichna structure in Tripura) during drilling operations (there was no oil in the well). The leakage subsequently resulted in fire in the

well on 12th March, 1990 which was controlled on 20th March, 1990. The well was capped on 24th March, 1990.

(b) There has been no loss of life or even major injury to any person. A good number of rig equipments were salvaged. However, some rig equipments have been damaged.

(c) There are regular safety drills on every drillsite to avert such incidents. An enquiry has been conducted by ONGC to investigate the causes of the incident and suggest steps to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future. The report of enquiry is under consideration to the Commission. The Government has also decided to set up a study team for looking into incidents of blow outs in the recent years in wells drilled by ONGC.

Land for Mukunda Project of BCCL

2088. SHRI PURNACHANDRA MALIK: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total land acquired for Mukunda Projects of the Bharat Coking coal Ltd.;

(b) the system adopted for acquiring land from land owners;

(c) the number of villages affected by the project;

(d) the rate of compensation and price for each unit of land offered to the land owners; and

(e) the programme made for employment and rehabilitation of the affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (d). So

far 344.59 hectares of land in 11 villages has been acquired by BCCL for Mukunda Opencast Project. These lands were acquired under the provisions of Land Acquisition act Through the State Government. The compensation and price of each unit of land is decided by the State Government as per provisions of the L.A. Act.

(e) According to the present policy, coal companies do not necessarily provide employment to land losers. However in case some vacancies become available, preference in employment in unskilled/semiskilled categories is given to those whose lands are acquired for coal projects. As a measure of rehabilitation coal companies are providing developed house sites to those persons whose houses are acquired.

Effect on Environment due to Mukunda Project of BCCL

2089. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have studied the effect of coal dust produced in Mukunda projects of the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. on the surrounding locality;

(b) if so, the steps taken to maintain proper environmental condition there; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (c). a detailed feasibility report for development of Mukunda Opencast Project in Jharia Coalfield was prepared by the Soviet Experts. Besides technical and economic aspects, the feasibility study also covered the air pollution aspects of this project. The ambient air quality observations in the project area were carried out by the Central Mine Research Station (CMRS), Dhanbad. Later, a

fresh set of observations were taken by the scientists of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad. These observations had predicted higher than permissible level of air pollution over the village. The Soviet experts had also examined the feasibility of reducing air pollution over Mukunda village. According to them it would not have been possible to reduce the pollution due to dust from proposed opencast mine even by application of modern technology and as such they had suggested shifting of the village away from the area of influence of the opencast mine. The development of Mukunda Opencast Project has since been deferred for the time being.

Workers in Collieries

2090. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Colliery workers in different collieries allowed to join their duties with compensation or without compensation inspite of the Tribunal Award for their reinstatement;

(b) the number of cases pending for settlement; and

(c) when these are likely to be finalised and workers observed?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Polyester Processing Industry In Madhya Pradesh

2091. SHRI S. C. VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state: