

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 Coal-field 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: