

| State | As on 31.12.2001 | As on 31.12.2002 |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Rajasthan | 4995 | 4960 |
| Tamil Nadu | 3660 | 2959 |
| Tripura | 420 | 444 |
| Uttar Pradesh | 1058 | 1010 |
| Uttaranchal | 1 | 2 |
| West Bengal | 24597 | 21386 |
| TOTAL : | 59636 | 54150 |

(c) Powers of the Central Government to detect and deport foreigners living in India illegally have been delegated to all the State Governments/ UT Administrations. State Governments are instructed regularly to launch special drives to detect and deport such foreign nationals.

Deaths of BSF Jawans in avalanches

*580.SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that more than ten soldiers and jawans from Border Security Force (BSF) and other police organisations are reported to have been buried alive under avalanches in Ladakh region during the last three months:

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the bodies of the victims have not been retrieved from under the debris so far; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to protect the lives of soldiers and jawans in this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) No, Sir. No jawan of BSF or other Central police organisation has died in Ladakh region during last three months due to avalanches.

(c) to (d) Do not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

WRITTEN ANSWERSTO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Purchase of faulty gas masks by CIL

4177. SHRI ABHAY KANT PRASAD: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited had purchased about 30,000 gas masks technically called 'Filter Self Rescuers' at a cost of Rs. 5 crores which were later found to be faulty;

(b) if so, whether such gas masks were purchased after proper test;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) and (b) Thirty thousand (30,000) filter self rescuers approved by DGMS were procured in 1996-97 and put into use. However, in 1998, as per advice of DGMS, these were withdrawn from use and after sample testing at CMRI, Dhanbad, all these thirty thousand self rescuers have again been put into use in 1999 on the basis of satisfactory test results.

(c) Not applicable in view of reply given to parts (a) and (b) above.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply given to above.

Ash content in coal

‡4178.SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that approximately 34 per cent ash is found in the coal produced in the country;

(b) if not, the estimated maximum quantity and minimum quantity of ash in the same;

(c) whether there is any plan to reduce the quantity of ash in the coal and bring it to the level of quantity of ash found in the imported coal; and

(d) if so, the quantity of ash found in the imported coal?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir, ash in coal of different seams differ widely.

(b) Coal produced in the country from different coal seams are categorised in different coal-grades. Coking coals are graded on the basis of ash content, the non-coking coals are graded on the basis of Useful Heat Value (UHV) and the semi/weakly coking coals are graded on the basis of ash plus moisture content.

‡Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.