

(b) if so, the names of the companies to which coalfields have been allotted and are proposed to be allotted for the purpose;

(c) the quantity of petrol/gas likely to be produced annually by each of these companies and by when that is likely to be available for domestic consumption; and

(d) how much they would add to the overall energy basket of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) A Notification was issued by the Government on the 12th July, 2007 specifying coal liquefaction to be an end use for the purpose of captive mining under the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, 1973.

(b) No coalfields have been allotted for this purpose.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view to reply given to part (b) above.

Abandoning of coal mines

204. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of rules and procedure mandatory and to be followed by coal companies in abandoning a coal mine;

(b) the details of coal mines abandoned by Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL) in the coal belts in Raniganj-Asansol and Jharkhand during the last five years;

(c) whether Government has been seized of the fact that under-ground fire has engulfed several abandoned coal mines belonging to ECL in the Raniganj-Asansol belt for the last several months exposing the inhabitants in its vicinity to disastrous consequences; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken, if any, for safety of the residents and properties in the area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The mandatory rules and procedures to be followed by coal companies in abandoning a coal mine and as prescribed in the Coal Mines Regulations 1957 and as per guidelines issued by the Directorate General of Mines Safety, Dhanbad, from time to time.

(b) No coal mine has been abandoned in the Eastern Coal Fields Limited (ECL) during the last five years. However, production operation has been suspended in the following 7 (seven) underground mines during the last five years on the ground of exhaustion of reserves in working seams/safety and economic unviability:

- (i) Samla
- (ii) Khoirabad Incline
- (iii) Lachipur (RD Unit)
- (iv) Gopinathpur
- (v) Sangramgarh
- (vi) Chinakuri Mine No. 11
- (vii) Bhamuria Unit of Perbelia Colliery

(c) No fire has engulfed abandoned coal mines belonging to ECL in Raniganj-Asansol belt for the last several months. However, recently due to illegal mining, fire at two locations under Satgram area *viz.* Benalee and J.K. Nagar fire project had occurred.

(d) At Benalee location (East Satgram Colliery), nearly 330 nos. of illegal pits have been filled in/dozed off by dozer/pay loader to extinguish smoke/flame and to prevent further entry of fresh air.

At the J.K. Nagar fire project (near Nimcha) fire/smoke was immediately brought under control by dozing/filling of the subsidence crack/pot holes and compaction of the dozed off area also had been done.

The Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIM&FR), Dhanbad has been engaged to detect the extension of fire towards Nimcha Village and measures to be taken for protecting the village.

Seven families have been shifted to a safer zone on safety ground and ECL has provided quarters to them.

IT industries

205. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Information and Technology industry of the country is poised for recession in the coming year;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the value of export of software by IT industry for the last three years, year-wise, and the projected growth for the next three years;

(d) whether the country will lose its leadership in IT industry to China and other competing countries due to lack of development planning by Government at present; and

(e) if so, the urgent steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard and the results proposed to be achieved in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEELAHMAD): (a) No, Sir. As per NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies) the Indian IT-ITES/BPO (including hardware) sector's revenue aggregate is estimated to grow by over 33 per cent in 2007-08.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the NASSCOM, the export of IT and ITES sector for the last 3 years was as follows:

Year	Exports (in US \$ Billion)
2004-05	17.7
2005-06	23.6
2006-07	31.3

The export is estimated to grow at annual rate of 24-25 per cent.

(d) No, Sir. As per (Electronics and Computer Software Export Promotion Council (ESC) there is no immediate challenge to Indian IT Industry from China or other competing countries.

(e) Does not arise.