

[1 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) Does not arise in view of reply in part (b).

(d) Where the underground fire cannot be immediately controlled it is extinguished by taking following steps:—

(1) The area is isolated by building isolation stoppings.

(2) By blanketing on the surface by filling mutty & dozing it to avoid air entering from surface cracks.

Steps taken for prevention of fire incidents in underground mines:-

(i) Compliance of provisions made under Coal Mines Regulation Act, 1957.

(ii) Compliance of recommendations made by Director General of Mines Safety through various circulars issued from time to time.

(iii) Working the coal seams in panels with appropriate size keeping in mind the incubation period.

(iv) Regular monitoring of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and

temperature in depillaring districts for early detection of heating.

(v) Cleaning of fallen coal.

(vi) Inspection of old workings and depillaring districts on idle days.

(vii) Surface blanketing to prevent breathing of air into areas from which coal has been extracted etc.

Nickel Deposits

257. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) the States where Nickel deposits have been discovered;

(b) the expected Nickel areas in Sukinda Valley in Orissa;

(c) the steps taken to extract Nickel from that area;

(d) whether any Nickel extraction plant is proposed to be set up at Sukinda; and

(e) if so, the steps taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) to (e) Major occurrences of Nickel are found in the Sukinda belt of Orissa.

Besides, occurrences of Nickel have been reported from the States of Bihar, Karnataka, Kerala, Rajasthan, Manipur and Nagaland. Nickel areas in Sukinda Valley:—

- (i) Kansa Sector;
- (ii) Kumardah-Saruabil-Sukerangi Sector;
- (iii) Kaliapani Sector;
- (iv) Tisco Sector.

At present there is no proposal to set up a Nickel extraction plant in the Sukinda Valley. However, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has developed a process to extract Nickel metal from Chromite overburden accumulated as waste after extraction of Chromite ore. In Sukinda Valley a Pilot Plant with the capacity to treat up to 10 tones of Chrome overburden per day is being set up at the Regional Research Laboratory at bhubaneswar at a capital cost of Rs.10 crore following signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Hindustan Zinc Limited and CSIR. The techno-economic viability of Nickel extraction from the Chromite overburden waste in Sukinda valley can be assessed after operation of the Pilot Plant for two years when sufficient data has been generated.

Mishra Committee Report on Coal

258. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of State for MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Committee, headed by Shri R.N. Mishra was set up, which has given complete report, with the recommendations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many recommendations have been accepted by Government and how many have been implemented by the various Coal companies;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA):(a) to (c) Three Committees were set up by the erstwhile Ministry of Coal under the Chairmanship of Shri R.N. Mishra, a senior executive of Coal India Limited (CIL). The information about these three Committee is given below:—