

Winding up of Joint Bipartite Committee in Coal Industry

2233. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of State for MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the decision of the Board of Directors of Coal India Ltd. to wind up the Joint Bipartite Committee in Coal Industry;

(b) if so, the details of the decision;

(c) whether unions in Coal Industry have objected to the decision of Coal India Management; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) The Board of Directors of Coal India Limited had passed a resolution on 16.7.1999 that a recommendation be made to the Department of Coal to wind up the Joint Bipartite Committee for Coal Industry (JBCCI) and that wage negotiations may be held at the subsidiary company level in accordance with the capacity of the subsidiary to pay.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) JBCCI is still in position and negotiations are in progress. No proposal has been received from CIL for winding up of JBCCI so far.

Rates of Royalty on Minerals

2234. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of MINES AND MINERALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bihar Government has represented to streamline the existing system of departmentally fixing the rates of royalty on minerals;

(b) whether Government proposed to set up a structure body of experts, to revise these rates;

(c) whether a decision has been taken to revise the rates of royalty for Lignite and other minerals every three years; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not revising the rates for minerals since 1990?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) From time to time the State Governments make representation to the Central Government for streamlining the existing system of fixation of rates of royalty and enhancement in the rates of royalty. Normally a Study Group comprising representatives of State Governments, the Industry, Technical Authorities and other concerned Ministries/Departments is constituted by the Government for revision of rates of royalty within the frame work of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. Such Study Group makes recommendations about revision

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of royalty rates for consideration of the Government. The Central Government has constituted a Study Group on 5.10.1998 under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (Mines) to suggest revision in the rates of royalty on minerals other than coal, lignite and sand for stowing.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. As per Section 9(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1975, there is no specific stipulation of periodicity for carrying out revision of royalty rates. The rate of royalty on Lignite was last revised in 1990. However, the rates of royalty for minerals (other than Coal, Lignite and Sand for Stowing) were revised on 11.4.97 while, the royalty rates for Coal were revised on 11.10.94.

Potential for Solar Energy

2235. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the estimated potential for solar energy is 20,000 MW;

(b) if so, Government's plans to exploit this potential; and

(c) the present total installed capacity and the plan to increase the capacity during the Ninth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) The estimated solar radiation received over the land surface of India is about 5,000 trillion kilowatt hours per year. In electrical terms, a generating capacity of 20-35 MW can be established using one square kilometre of land area. This potential is vast. However, the actual utilisation depends on the economics of solar energy systems compared to conventional energy devices and conventional energy costs. The utilisation also depends on the technology adopted, the application to be served, the geographic region, etc. To exploit the solar energy potential optimally and in an economic manner, Government is implementing a countrywide programme for the installation of solar energy systems for applications such as lighting, water pumping, village power, water heating, cooking, etc. A number of incentives like central subsidy, soft loan, 100% accelerated depreciation, concessional duty imports and exemption from excise duty on certain devices and systems have been provided by the Government.

(c) A number of solar energy devices and systems have been installed in the country so far, including 2,47,065 solar lanterns, 99,079 home lighting systems, 38,013 street lights, 3,106 photovoltaic water pumping systems, 889kW aggregate capacity of stand alone power plants, 1,040 KW aggregate capacity of grid connected power plants, about 4,60,000 sq. m. solar thermal collector area and about 4,80,000 solar cookers. The total capacity of photovoltaic systems installed is about 41 MW.