

SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the details of the collaboration arrangements with the Soviet Union regarding coal production in India. Now, Russia's agreement for development of Indian coal-mining industry has been in existence. Russia has decided to help India in coal projects.

SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA : There were various difficulties when the erstwhile Soviet Union disintegrated. But still we continued having a dialogue with them, particularly, the States where coal is produced. Sir, it appeared that it used to be produced at several places in the erstwhile Soviet Union and the machines were supplied to us collectively. Now, each one has become independent. So, we are having dialogue and discussion with them so that we can have direct contacts with the manufacturers of each of the Independent States. Sir, there are four projects now which are to be taken up immediately. These are Jhanjira Underground Project of Eastern Coalfields, that is, Longwall mining technology; Khadia Opencast Project of Sowell Dumper Combination, Northern Coalfield; Nigahi Opencast Project, Sowell Dumper, Northern Coalfield; and modernisation of Patradih Washeries.

Opposition to Dunkel Proposals

*425 **SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBAJI-RAO SHINDE :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the organisations sent a detailed note outlining their opposition to the Dunkel proposals nearly three months ago;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b) The main concerns that have been expressed with respect to the Dunkel proposals in the Uruguay Round are that they impinge on national sovereignty; that they will lead to unrestricted imports into the country; that in agriculture, our ability to provide subsidies to farmers and to run our public distribution system will be affected; that the patenting of seeds will lead to farmers having to buy seeds every year from multinational companies; that natural life forms, including genetic material, are becoming patentable subject matter and that the system of plant variety protection will affect our farmers; that the system of patent protection advocated in the proposals will require our Patents law to be changed and will adversely affect our pharmaceutical industry and drug prices in the country; that the proposals in the area of investment measures will mean unrestricted entry of foreign investment into the country; that the proposals in the services sector will lead to unrestricted entry for foreign banks, insurance companies and the like; and that the dispute settlement mechanism is inimical to our interests as it involves cross-retaliation.

(c) Government has taken note of the concerns expressed on the Dunkel proposals. Some of the concerns do not appear to be based on a proper appreciation of the factual position. Government has sought changes and improvements in the areas of agriculture, textiles, intellectual property rights and services. The Uruguay Round Negotiations are still in progress and it will be the endeavour of the Government to ensure that our national interests are safeguarded.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Mr. Shinde has really to be congratulated for reaching his question.

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBAJI-RAO SHINDE : Sir, my first supplementary is this. In part (c), it is said, "Government has taken note of the concerns expressed on the Dunkel proposals. Some of the concerns do not appear to be based on a proper appreciation of the factual position." And it is further stated, "The Government has sought changes and improvements in the

areas of agriculture, textiles..." I specifically ask as to what changes the Government intends to take in agriculture and pharmaceuticals.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Sir, so far as general discussion... (*interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think Question Hour is over.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE : Just a minute, Sir. I have already given notice to discuss the Dunkel proposals in detail. So, then I will answer all these things.

SHRI SUSHIKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE : Sir, the Government is going to discuss in detail the Dunkel proposals. I am very grateful for that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : When it is on the agenda... (*interruptions*)... You will find time to discuss it... (*interruptions*)...

SHRI JAGESH DESAI : Is it after everything is over ?

SHRI SOMAPPA R. BOMMAI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was promised by the Government that a sub-committee of the Cabinet would be formed under the chairmanship of Shri Arjun Singhji and it was also promised on the floor of this House that the Dunkel proposals would be discussed and debated in the House, by the then Commerce Minister... (*interruptions*)... I would only seek now... (*interruptions*)...

MR. CHAIRMAN : We will have a discussion during the next Session. Now, we will take up Papers to be Laid on the Table.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Import Restriction on Ethyl Alcohol

*426. **SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI** : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any import restriction on Ethyl alcohol against a licence has resulted

in the use of sub-standard and inferior solvents for the manufacture of perfumes which can cause skin cancer;

(b) whether Government have made any survey in this regard; and

(c) if so, the steps contemplated by Government so far ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) : (a) to (c) Under the Export and Import Policy, 1992-97, there is no restriction on import of Ethyl Alcohol. Government have not received any complaint that the use of sub-standard and inferior solvents for the manufacture of perfumes has caused skin cancer.

उपकरणों की आपूर्ति में विलम्ब के कारण कोयला परियोजनाओं का निर्धारित समय पर पूरा न हो पाया

*427. **श्री ईश्वर दत्त यादव** : क्या कोयला मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि उपकरणों की आपूर्ति में विलम्ब के कारण देश में कोयला परियोजनाओं का कार्य निर्धारित समय पर पूरा नहीं हो पा रहा है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) इसके परिणामस्वरूप कौन-कौन सी परियोजनाएँ प्रभावित हुई हैं जिन्हें अपने निर्धारित समय पर पूरा नहीं किया जा सका है; और

(घ) सरकार ने इस समस्या का समाधान करने के लिए क्या प्रयास किये हैं ?

कोयला मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री अजित कुमार पांडे) : (क) से (ग) देशीय खनन उपकरणों के उत्पादकों द्वारा उपकरणों की आपूर्ति में विलंब किए जाने के कारण कुछ बड़ी कोयला परियोजनाओं की समस्याओं का सामना करना पड़ रहा है। ये परियोजनाएँ निम्नलिखित हैं :—

(1) अमलोहरी ओपेनकास्ट (गार्दन कोलफील्ड्स लि.)—डोंगलाइन की आपूर्ति में विलंब।