

Scheme to extract coal from river beds

772. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited had launched any scheme to extract coal from the river beds;

(b) whether this scheme has been discontinued after implementing it partially;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the work is likely to be resumed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (d) The Government have sanctioned an advance action scheme for initiating preliminary activities in respect of Damodar river diversion project of Central Coalfields Ltd. for an amount of Rs. 5.59 crores. The proposed Damodar river diversion project is expected to release about 80 million tonnes of coking coal of Kargali seam which is proposed to be later exploited by opencast mining.

In Western Coalfields Ltd. Amb river diversion scheme was approved in April, 1993 for a capital outlay of Rs. 27.99 crores and work is undertaken in phases depending upon progress of land acquisition and other requirements.

Modernisation of coal mines

773. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of modernisation projects taken up in different coal mines of CIL so far;

(b) what are those coal mines; and

(c) the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c)

20 modernisation projects (costing Rs. 20 crores and above each) were taken up in Coal India Limited for re-organisation. Out of these 20 projects, 9 are on going and 11 have been completed. Names of these projects are as under:—

BCCI	Status
North Amlabad UG	On-going
Bhargora UG	On-going
Katras UG	Completed
Keshalpur	
Exp. II OC	Completed
CCL	
Saunde D UG	On-going
Ray-Bachra UG	On-going
Kathara Int. OC	Completed
Kathara OC	Completed
Selected Dhori OC	Completed
ECL	
Kottadih (OC+UG)	On-going
Amritnagar UG	On-going
J.K Nagar UG	On-going
Dhemomain UG	Completed
SECL	
Ramnagar RO UG	Completed
Rajgamar RO UG	Completed
WCL	
Sasti RO UG	On-going
Durgapur Rayat. UG	On-going
Pathakhera Expn. UG	Completed
Umter Expn. OC	Completed
Silewara II UG	Completed
Increased coal cess in N. E. Region	

774. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently increased coal cess in the North Eastern region of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The Central Government does not levy any cess on coal.

According to available information Govt. of Meghalaya has been collecting Minerals Cess on coal at the following rates:—

Type of coal	(Rs./tonne)	
	Previous rates	Enhanced rates
Hand picked coal produced in the State of Assam	7.00	150.00
Ungraded Run of Mine coal produced in the State of Assam	6.50	120.00

Foreign collaboration to meet the demand of coal

775. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have entered into foreign collaboration to meet the demand of coal in the country during 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the category of coal which is not available in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) Government have been taken securing foreign assistance from Countries like U.K., France, Germany, Canada, Australia with a view to increase coal production by way of getting technical and financial assistance, procuring larger capacity machinery and equipment which are not indigenously available. However, no

1. Rs. 10.00 per tonne for the period from 1.10.1989 to 31.3.1993.

2 Rs. 35.00 per tonne for the period from 1.4.1993 to 31.1.1994.

3. Rs. 30.00 per tonne for the period w.e.f. 1.2.1994.

Govt. of Assam was levying a land tax of Rs. 100 per tonne of coal produced which has been withdrawn by them w.e.f. 1.2.1994. Consequently, royalty on coal produced in the State of Assam has been enhanced w.e.f. 25.3.1994 as follows:

new contract was signed during 1993-94 to meet demand of coal in the country.

(c) Existing supply of low ash coking coal is not adequate to meet the demand of Steel Plants. This is being supplemented by import of low ash coking coal. In the year 1993-94, 6.80 m.t. of coking coal was imported for blending with indigenously available coking coal.

Demand of washed coal in this country

776. SHRI CHIMANBHAI HARI BHAI SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for washed coal is higher than its production;

(b) if so, the average annual production of washed coal in the country in each plant;

(c) whether Government have received any proposal for setting up coal washeries in the country;