

(b) the action taken in this regard uptill now;

(c) whether new mines have been approved in Haradol and Sharda project in Kanhar and PENCH region; and

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKER PRASAD): (a) and (b) Coal India Limited has surveyed for coal reserves in PENCH and Kanhan area from Shivpuri to Sonpur. Area beyond Sonpur i.e. Sonpur to Amarwada is non coal bearing area as per available information from GSI mapping.

In the coal bearing area between Shivpuri to Sonpur, coal blocks have been delineated after detailed exploration. Total estimated coal reserve in these blocks in 766.4 million tonnes; 661.9 million tonnes being proved category and 104.5 million tonnes indicated category.

(c) and (d) A scheme for Haradol underground mine was approved for a capacity of 0.10 MTY at a capital investment of Rs. 1.62 crores as a replacement of existing Banshi mine.

First stage of forest clearance for Haradol underground mine has been received but second stage clearance is still awaited. Besides, Geo-mining condition is very adverse and reserve is also meagre (0.5 Mt.). Some additional reserve has been found for Banshi mine and the mine is expected to run for some more years. Hence implementation of Haradol underground scheme has been kept in abeyance.

In case of Sharda underground, though project report was formulated for a production capacity of 0.18 MTY at a capital investment of Rs. 16.68 crores, the same was not approved as it was financially non-viable at planning stage itself.

Inadequate attention paid by NALCO to its downstream units

3047. **SHRI ANANTA SETHI:** Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that Bhubaneswar-based National Aluminium Company (NALCO) has not paid adequate attention for the growth of its downstream units in that State;

(b) whether this has resulted into the closure of several downstream units in that State; and

(c) if so, the measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKER PRASAD): (a) NALCO has no downstream unit of its own. NALCO is setting up a 50,000 tonnes per annum (tpa) rolled product facility at Angul which is not yet commissioned.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Proposal to close down offices of GSI

3048. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending to close down the offices of Geological Survey of India (GSI);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether Geological Survey of India is engaged in the study of recent continuous tremors/earthquakes in Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the findings of the study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKER PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) which has been set up by the Government to review the Functions, Activities and Structure of the Ministries/Departments, while recommending 45 per cent cut in the present sanctioned strength of 16310 in the Geological Survey of India has advised the Government to review continuation of GSI establishments at Shillong, Ita Nagar, Guwahati, Gangtok (Sikkim), Samchi (Bhutan), Patna (Bihar), Pune, Thiruvananthapuram, Mangalore, Vishakhapatnam, Cochin, Jammu, Srinagar and Dehradun (total 14). In order to take a view on ERC's recommendations, a High Powered Committee is proposed to be set up.

(c) and (d) Kerala falls in the seismic Zone III in seismic zonation map of India. Historically, the region has experienced as many as 23 earthquakes/tremors of magnitude ranging upto 5.1 in Richter scale in the last century. GSI carries out micro-seismic surveys (damage inventory survey) for defining the