

underprivileged and disadvantaged section of minority communities. To ensure equitable distribution of benefits of these programmes/schemes, among all the minority communities, the new programme envisages location of a certain portion of development projects in minority concentration areas. It also provides that, wherever possible, 15% of targets and outlays under various programmes/schemes should be earmarked for minority communities.

Recovery of coal

*437. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that about six million tonnes of grade 'B' coal has been found buried under backfilled overburden in Sonepur Bazari Opencast Project, Eastern Coalfields Limited, due to incapability of management; and

(b) if so, what efforts Government is making to bring the above coal out from there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL):

(a) Out of total excavation made so far in Sonepur Bazari Project entire coal has been extracted and no coal has been buried within the excavated area as per Project Report. However, during the commencement years of the project *i.e.* in the years 1997-98 and 1998-99 on the southern part of access trench, some overburden had been dumped over R-IV bottom coal seam (lower most quarriable coal seam). The above said overburden dumping had been restricted to the area where coal had to be left as barrier against adjoining underground workings of Haripur underground colliery and R-IV bottom coal seam where it is unworkable due to thinning.

(b) Presently the working of Sonepur Bazari Open Cast Project have advanced towards the eastern part of the property. The balance coal of workable R-IV bottom coal seam will be extracted on retreat.

Use of EVMs

†*438. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public have apprehensions about the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs);

(b) whether it is also a fact that the electoral officers appointed by Government do not have sufficient know-how of these machines; and

(c) whether the old system of ballot papers would be introduced in place of Electronic Voting Machines during the next Assembly Elections in the country?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Elaborate Training (at least three rounds) is given on the EVMs to polling officials.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.