

[27 November, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

New mining policy

*75. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of Chief Ministers of States was held recently in Delhi;

"(b) if so, the details of discussion held in the meeting;

(c) whether some Chief Ministers have serious doubts about the new mining policy; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to clear their apprehensions?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) Chief Ministers were also invited to attend the meeting of Mineral Advisory Council held on 6.11.2006

(b) and (c) Views on the recommendations of Hoda Committee were expressed by State Governments, industry and other members of the Mineral Advisory Council.

(d) Central Government will finalize the proposed changes in the mining policy after considering the issues raised in the aforesaid meeting.

Abandoning of textbooks by NCERT

*76. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for abandoning the 'Science and Technology' series textbooks of VI standard to X standard by NCERT;

(b) whether it is fact that the new science book hurriedly prepared by NCERT for VI standard is very rudimentary and very much a backtrack of the previous 'Science and Technology' book which was a bold initiative to impart science to students in a detailed and effective manner at the high school level;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for diluting science education to students at the crucial age; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to review ineffective syllabus of science being introduced by NCERT at high school level?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) With the adoption of National Curriculum Framework (NCF) in 2005, new syllabi have been prepared for all subjects and for all classes at school level. To conform to the new Curriculum framework and syllabi, NCERT has undertaken the preparation of new textbooks. In Phase -1, new textbooks in all subjects including Science have been prepared for classes I, III, VI, IX and XI commencing from academic session 2006-07. New textbooks are under preparation for classes II, IV, VII, X and XII for the academic session 2007-08. The remaining classes V and VIII are proposed to be covered in 2008-09.

(b) The Science Textbook for class VI prepared by NCERT, has been developed by a Textbook Development Committee duly constituted by the NCERT. The content of the book has been prepared based on NCF - 2005 and the new syllabi, and keeping in view the constructivistic approach to learning, and envisages learning of science concepts by conducting a variety of investigative activities, demonstrations, field studies and projects. Thereafter, the textbook has been scrutinized by an Advisory Committee in Science and Mathematics having eminent scientists, academicians and experts as members, and finally approved by the National Monitoring Committee constituted by the Government.

It is the attempt of NCERT to continuously improve the content and presentation of textbooks to make them more child-friendly and useful.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Targets for power generation capacity addition

*77. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

SHRI CHITTABRATAMAJUMDAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total capacity of power generation (excluding captive generation) in megawatt added during the Tenth Five Year Plan period so far (breakup of thermal, hydel and other sources);