

Coal supply to Tamil Nadu

*265. SHRI R. MOHANARANGAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Tamil Nadu is not being given adequate supply of coal;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that at times, due to non-availability of wagons, supply of coal to the State has been held up for months together; and
- (c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) There has been some shortfall in the supply of coal to meet the demand in Tamilnadu, due to inadequate availability of transport capacity particularly railway wagons to move coal to the State. The coal companies are in constant touch with the Railways to maximise the movement of coal by railway wagons including coal to Tamilnadu. The loading of railway wagons is also being currently monitored at the highest level by the Cabinet Committee on Industrial Infrastructure. The coal companies also release coal for movement by road to the consumers against the shortfall in rail movement. The constraint on movement of coal through rail-cum-sea route via Haldia has also affected movement of coal to Tamilnadu.

Statement showing the details of the contractors engaged in the Bombay High Project

*270. SHRIMATI NARGIS DUTT: SHRI G. K. MOOPANAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a number of foreign suppliers/contractors, Indian agents of foreign firms and Indian manufacturers/suppliers are involved in the

Bombay High and adjoining offshore oil exploration and exploitation projects and pipeline projects; and

- (b) whether he will lay on the Table of the House a detailed statement about all these parties mentioned in part (a) who have supplied material/services to ONGC worth more than Rs. 1 million during the last three years, along with addresses of their principals and Indian offices and items of supplies/services made and rendered?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) This information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Coal Smuggling by West Bengal Government

*271. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI: SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: SHRI JAGDISH PRASAD MATHUR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether he has charged the West Bengal Government with smuggling of coal; and
- (b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what action is being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Minister for Energy had stated that he had received demands for coal from people who had come to him saying that they were not getting coal because whatever the quota was the C.P.M. Government was smuggling it into other States.