

COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the departmental enquiry made by the D.G.M.S. into the fatal accident at the Hariajan Colliery under E.C.L. on 15th March, 1980 where 9 persons were killed and 36 seriously injured has been completed and if so, the results of the investigation;

(b) what is the progress of the enquiry which is being conducted by the Assistant District Magistrate, Dhanbad;

(c) whether officers of the D.G.M.S. have also given evidence and placed their findings before the Assistant District Magistrate and if not, what are the reasons thereof;

(d) whether the enquiry by the District authorities has been completed and if not, what are the reasons of delay;

(e) if reply to part (d) above be in the affirmative, what are the details of their findings; and

(f) what action has been taken by the ECL authorities against the officers for violations of the provisions of the Indian Explosive Act, 1884?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) The DGMS has completed the enquiry into the accident of the Hariajan Colliery under Eastern Coalfields Ltd. and has concluded that the accident was caused when a large quantity of explosives and detonators kept in an unlicensed store room exploded consequent to a fire spreading from an adjoining electric cap lamp room. The DGMS has held this to be an accident which directly comes under the provisions of the Indian Explosives Act and is, therefore, a non-mining accident.

(b) to (e) The Additional District Magistrate, Dhanbad has completed the enquiry but the report has not yet been submitted by him. DGMS (Central Zone) who had conducted the

enquiries into the accident was called for tendering evidence by the Additional District Magistrate, Dhanbad on 16-5-1980 but was told that his evidence was not necessary.

(f) Does not arise at this stage.

### Coal reserves in Wainganga river basin

1139. SHRI G. R. MHAISEKAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what are the estimates of coal reserves in Wainganga river basin under the Western Coal Limited;

(b) what is the likely quality of the coal; and

(c) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to undertake a fresh comprehensive survey for coal in this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) As per Geological literature, there is no basin known as Wainganga river basin. However, since Wainganga river flows very close to Wardha Valley Coalfields presumably the information sought for is for Wardha Valley Coalfields under WCL. The total reserves according to the GSI (September, 1978) in Wardha Valley Coalfields is 2208 mt. out of which proved reserves are 723 m.te. indicated reserves 170 m.te. and inferred reserves are 1315 m.te.

(b) In Wardha Valley Coalfield there is generally one thick seam (15 m. to 20 m) and coal from this seam generally falls in grade 'C' to 'E' based on useful heat value (as per Government notification dated 16-7-1977), the grade may improve to grade 'B' in some selected sections of the coal seams.

(c) In the last 5 or 6 years detailed exploration of the Wardha Valley coalfield has been carried out. Based on this a number of new mines have

been projected. Presently also detailed exploration is being carried out by CMPDIL in Padmapur Sasti and Hindustan Lalpeth areas.

**Cases originating from Aurangabad, Bhir, Nanded and Parbhani pending in Bombay High Court for the last three years**

1140. SHRI G. R. MHAISEKAR: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE, AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in the Bombay High Court during the last three years and originating from Aurangabad Bhir, Osmanabad, Nanded and Parbhani; and

(b) what is their cumulative percentage of the total number of cases pending in that High Court?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected, and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Appointment of Chief Justice of Delhi High Court**

1141. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: R. M. DESAI:

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present Chief Justice of Delhi High Court has been appointed only on an *ad hoc* basis;

(b) whether he is entitled to a regular appointment as a senior most judge;

(c) whether Government propose to bring an outsider as Chief Justice of Delhi;

(d) whether there have been protests against this *ad hoc* appointment; and

(e) if so, what is Government's reaction thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIV SHANKAR): (a) On the retirement of Shri Justice V. S. Deshpande, Shri Prakash Narain has been appointed under Article 223 to perform the duties of the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.

(b) No such right accrues to him under the Constitution.

(c) to (e) No protest specifically against the appointment of an acting Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court has been received by Government. The question of appointment of the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court is under the consideration of the Government.

1142. (Transferred to the 14th August, 1980).

**Cancellation of Accreditation of Journalists**

1143. SHRI SURENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have cancelled the Accreditation of any Journalist during the past six months; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Scheme to resolve the power crisis**

1144. SHRI NARSINGH NARAIN PANDEY: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production of hydel and thermal power in each State during the last three years;