

Hiring of taxi for plying in Coalfield

1251. SHRI KALYAN ROY:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:
SHRI SYED SHAHEDUL-
LAH:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news published in the Coal Field News of India, Issue XXI, dated the 10th June, 1980 (published from Asansol) that (i) a taxi No. WBE 1252 hired by the Eastern Coalfield Limited is not plying in coalfield but working in Bihar, (ii) a section of ECL officers have drawn Rs. 10 lakhs for reopening the Shibpur Colliery without approval by the Finance Department, and (iii) two coal cutting machines have been repaired at a cost of Rs. 1,69,000.00;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any investigation has been ordered into these allegations and if so, when and by whom; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of a Thermal Plant at Mangalore

1252. SHRI B. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Thermal Power Plant at Mangalore in view of the acute power shortage in the Karnataka State; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Foreign assistance in the oil exploration in the country

1253. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Romanian Government has agreed to help India in oil exploration in this country;

(b) if so, whether any agreement has been reached in this regard;

(c) whether the Government of India have any such agreement with any other country at present;

(d) whether Big Powers have also offered their cooperation and help for oil exploration; and

(e) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) During the recent visit of the Romanian Minister of Machine Building Industry, discussion, regarding Romanian interest in taking up exploration activities in India, took place.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The USSR has been offering cooperation and help to India in oil exploration from time to time since 1956 under a protocol signed in Moscow between the Minister for Petroleum, Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India, and the Minister of Oil Industries, Government of the USSR. A contract has been entered into between the Soviet agency V/O Technoexport and ONGC in April 1980 for cooperation in deep exploratory drilling at Rokhia location