

Construction of the Ramgarh Coal Washery

•771. SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN:
SHRI KALYAN ROY;

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a.) whether it is a fact that the construction of the Ramgarh Coal Washery by the Coal India Limited has been given to M/s. Tata-Robins-Fraser Company in preference to the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation and the Engineering Projects, India;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government have received any representations dated the 6th August and 9th December, 1977 from some members of Parliament against the award of the contract to the Tatas which is operating in collaboration with Wedag, a multinational West German Company;

(d) if so, what are the details of the representation;

(e) whether M/s. Tata-Robins-Fraser Company propose to introduce MATAAC Jig process in the new washery which has already been found unsuitable to the Indian conditions;

(f) what were the terms offered by other public sector companies like MAMCO and EPI for construction of the washery; and

(g) whether Government propose to institute a probe into the whole affairs?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir. The question of award of contract for the Ramgarh Washery is at present under consideration of the Board of Directors of Coal India Limited;

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Representations were received from certain Members of Parliament alleging that the decision to award the contract to M/s. Tata-Robins-Fraser in preference to public sector undertakings was not correct and that the offer of Tata-Robins-Fraser for a Batac Jig process was not suited to Indian conditions. It was also alleged that agents employed by M/s. Tata-Robins-Fraser unduly influenced in the decision of Central Coalfields Ltd.

(e) One of the processes proposed by M/s. Tata-Robins-Fraser incorporates the use of a Batac Jig. The suitability of this process for the beneficiation of Ramgarh coal is yet to be determined.

(f) MAMC made four offers varying from Rs. 20.14 crores to Rs. 23.91 crores. The offers of M/s. EPIL and EIL were of Rs. 22.82 crores and 27.71 crores respectively.

(g) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

People belonging to the backward classes

*772. SHRI SUJAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government have made any survey regarding the number of people who belong to the backward classes in the country; and if so, what is the percentage of such people to the total population in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): jApprt from the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, no lists of other Backward Classes have been drawn up by the Government of India. While the enumeration of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is done at the census, there has been no survey regarding the number of persons belonging to other Backward Classes.