

#### Criteria for extraction of coal

†\*373. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) the subterranean depth in metres upto which coal companies are extracting coal as of now;
- (b) the cost of extracting coal from 100 feet below the ground;
- (c) whether the coal extracted from below 300 feet would stand the competitive price of the market; and
- (d) whether Government proposes to extract coal from 200 to 250 feet below the ground?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) The depth of coal extraction in some of the mines of Coal India Limited has reached about 200 metres through opencast mining and around 600 metres through underground mining operations.

(b) and (c) Besides depth, the cost of extraction of coal depends on the method of mining, geo-mining conditions, stripping ratio, type of mechanization, etc. Economies of scale and grade of coal are important to work out the price competitiveness. In many opencast projects of Coal India Limited, coal being extracted below 300 feet (about 91 metres) depth is competitive at the present market price.

(d) Coal is already being extracted from 200 to 250 feet (about 61 metres to 76 metres) depth below ground.

#### Sikh Marriage Act

\*374. SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has agreed in principle to have a separate Sikh Marriage Act governing the marriages of Sikhs;
- (b) whether the draft of the Bill has been cleared by the Union Cabinet;
- (c) if so, by when it is likely to be introduced in the Parliament; and
- (d) if not, the status of the proposed legislation?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) There is no proposal to introduce any such Bill.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.