

Exploration of minerals by CMPDI

†808. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the samples of many minerals like fire clay were found at various layers during drilling process conducted for exploration of coal by Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI), Ranchi, Jharkhand, and their availability was ignored; and

(b) if so, whether Government will consider to publish a report of all minerals found during drilling conducted by CMPDI and explore the possibility of their commercial mining also, if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) During exploration, at places, fire clay is found associated with coal deposits. However, fire clay mostly occurs as thin lentoid bodies in coal bearing rock, commercial exploitation of which was not found viable.

(b) During regional exploration taken up by Geological Surveys of India (GSI), all minerals found are reported along with coal. Detailed drilling conducted by CMPDI is for coal deposits explored by GSI.

Coking and non-coking coal reserves

†809. SHRI MAHESH PODDAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coking and non-coking coal reserves and their production in the country, during the last five years, year-wise, State-wise;

(b) the details of quantum of coal imports, its expenditure and annual increase in terms of percentage, during the last five years; and

(c) the details of expected benefit in terms of revenue and employment to the coal producer States of the country on account of proposed commercial mining of coal by Government, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): (a) The details of coking and non-coking coal resources in the country, assessed during last five years, year-wise & State-wise, are given in the Statement (*See* below). The details of the coal production are given below: —

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.