

(b) if so, whether no charges towards the consumption of electricity were recovered from the employees between April, 1999 to March, 2002 and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the amount involved as a result of non-recovery of electricity charges has been recovered; and

(d) if not, the reasons and the persons responsible therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As reported by Coal India Limited, charges for excess consumption over 30 units could not be recovered as the company was unable to ascertain actual consumption due to non-installation of individual meters in these quarters. However, in case of executives, 1% of basic pay is being recovered towards electricity charges, if quarters are provided.

(d) Since the practice is continuing from prior to nationalisation in the CIL subsidiaries, it is not possible to fix responsibility at subsidiary level. The management has deliberated this issue with the workers' representatives at different levels but the latter categorically opposed any curtailment of benefits already being availed by them.

Accident in Singareni Collieries Mines

1550. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question 48 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 23rd July, 2003 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that another serious accident occurred in a mine of the Singareni Collieries on the night between the 16th and 17th October, 2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the number of mine workers who died/injured in the accident; and

(c) whether inquiry into the mishap has been conducted; if so, the outcome thereof and action taken thereon?

[17 December, 2003] RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A major accident occurred at Godavarikhani No. 8—A incline mine of Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd. (SCCL) on 17.10.2003 at around 1.00 AM, due to roof fall in which 10 persons were killed and 2 persons received serious bodily injury.

(c) Ministry of Labour has decided to constitute a court of inquiry under Section 24 of the Mines Act, 1952 by a sitting Judge of a High Court.

Discovery of coalfields by G.S.I.

1551. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise names of places where the Geological Survey of India has found new coalfields during the last decade;

(b) the quantities of coal in each of the new found places, and

(c) how far this coal will meet the requirements of thermal power stations and steel industry sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL): (a) and (b) The State-wise/coalfield-wise names of places where the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has assessed new (additional) coal resources on the basis of regional exploration during the last decade (1993-2002) alongwith the quantity of coal resources are given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(c) Out of the total coal resources of 18.52 billion tonnes explored by GSI during the last decade (1993-2002), only about 0.47 billion tonnes occurring in East Bokaro (Jharkhand) and Sohagpur (M.P./Chhattisgarh) coalfield and also a part of about 0.35 billion tonne occurring in Batua and Patasi Blocks of Sohagpur coalfield are found to have coking properties which may be suitable for steel industry. The balance coal resources are suitable for thermal power stations.