

Conference on Coal Production

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274. { Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Solanki:
Shri Narasimha Reddy:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Indrajit Gupta:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of representatives of coal industry and officials of Government was held recently in Calcutta;

(b) if so, the outline of the major proposals on coal production targets discussed at this meeting; and

(c) whether Government have taken any final decision in the matter?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Coal Industry was informed of the likely quantity of coal that it may have to raise in the remaining two years of the current Plan, in order to meet the additional demand over the level of consumption during the year 1963-64. The industry was also informed of the thinking in the Planning Group on Coal in regard to the likely coal demand at the end of the Fourth Plan and the provisional production programme in order to meet the above requirements.

(c) No. Decisions about the Fourth Plan coal programme have yet to be taken.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether any outline of the target of the expansion programme for the Fourth Plan has been finalized and, if so, what has been the main recommendation of the various working groups?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: Tentative targets have been fixed. But they will have to be discussed further. Then only final decisions can be taken.

Shrimati Savitri Nigam: May I know whether we will be able to make some exports of coal after fulfilling the requirements of the country during the Fourth Plan?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: Small quantities are being exported even now. But first of all we will have to meet our demands and then only think about our exports.

Shri Rameshwar Tantia: May I know whether it is a fact that our production at present exceeds the demands of the country and, if so, whether Government is thinking of revising the target of production for the remaining period of the Third Plan?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: It is not always so. It is only in the case of lower grades of coal there is surplus at present. We should not take it for granted that there is too much of surplus. Only one month's is lying idle now. Therefore, we should not reduce the targets. Anyway, the targets have been revised also.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Asad: In view of the fact that targets of production of coal during the Third Plan had been revised many a time, may I know whether this conference had come to a decision that there would be no more revision of coal production targets during the period of the Third Plan?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: That cannot be assured because, as I said, only the lower grades of coal are in surplus. Coking coal and blendable coal are necessary and we will have to continue their increased production.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : क्या यह सत्य है कि कोयले का उत्पादन ज्यादा न होने का सब से बड़ा मूल कारण यह है कि उस में ग्राज भी ठेकेदारी प्रथा कायम है ?

Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy: I do not know whether that will improve matters. As it stands, we have been able to produce in the private sector and also in the public sector.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Technical Training in Great Britain

*275. { **Shri P. R. Chakraverti:**
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Department of Technical Co-operation, U.K. were approached during the last 12 months for the training of Indians in Britain for the maintenance and operation of the new plant installed at Durgapur Steel works;

(b) how many Indian Steel workers have received training in U.K. during the last three years;

(c) whether Indian Engineering experts have also received training in U.K. to make them competent to assist the Chief Construction Engineer at Durgapur; and

(d) whether arrangements have been made for training of Indian workers to be employed in Bokaro?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 107 persons received training in the U.K. during the last three years ending December, 1963.

(c) Engineers from the Construction Division under the Chief Engineer were not sent to the U.K. for training. Engineering personnel

were sent abroad for training mostly for maintenance and operation jobs. Till the commissioning of the Plant some of these engineers on return from training were employed to assist in construction work.

(d) Yes, Sir, joint preliminary arrangements have been made by Bokaro Steel with Hindustan Steel for training of Bokaro Steel Workers in the plants of Hindustan Steel.

Price of Steel

*276. { **Shri Indrajit Gupta:**
Shri Yashpal Singh:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several decontrolled categories of steel are being sold in Bombay, Punjab and other places at prices much higher than those fixed by the Joint Plant Committee;

(b) if so, whether the aim of de-control viz., to check blackmarketing, has virtually failed; and

(c) whether it is proposed to assume any statutory powers for enforcing the Joint Plant Committee rates?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri N. Sanjiva Reddy): (a) and (b). The prices announced by the Joint Plant Committee are applicable only to supplies made by main producers direct. To these base prices some extras for size and quality as well as sales tax have to be added. In the case of supplies received through stockists, the stockists' remuneration has to be added and in the case of re-rollers products, the freight element also has to be added. The prices ruling in the market will therefore be generally somewhat higher than the J.P.C. prices. In the case of some categories, prices have gone even below the J.P.C.