

Starred Question No. 473 on the 17th August, 1960 and state:

(a) the further progress made in regard to the question of temporary increase in the pension of ex-service-men; and

(b) when a final decision in this matter is likely to be taken?

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

STATEMENT

Enhanced rates of temporary increases in pension have since been approved for Armed Forces pensioners. The decision will cover about 3½ lakhs of pensioners. It does not apply to Armed Forces pensioners drawing the New Pension Code rates of pension introduced in 1953, as no temporary increases are admissible in conjunction with these rates of pension. It does not also cover ex-State Forces pensioners who got temporary increases at the rates prescribed from time to time for civil pensioners in the States by the State Governments/Administrations concerned.

The enhanced rates of temporary increase in pension, now approved, have been so devised as to ensure that the basic pensions plus the new temporary increases do not, by and large, exceed the corresponding New Pension Code rates of pension. Subject to this consideration, and to the limiting factor that pensioners of the same rank, drawing the same type and rate of basic pension should have the same rate of temporary increase, the latest rates of temporary increase in pension admissible to Central Government civilian pensioners have been generally made applicable to Armed Forces pensioners.

As a result of this decision, eligible pensioners, drawing pensions up to Rs. 100 per mensem, will get enhanced rates of temporary increase in pension varying generally from Rs. 7 per mensem to Rs. 12.50 per mensem, as against two flat rates of temporary

increase, namely, Rs. 10 per mensem and Rs. 12.50 per mensem, admissible to Central Government civilian pensioners. Depending on the rate of basic pension, the rank held, the type of pension and other factors, the actual enhanced monthly rates of temporary increase within the above range, are Rs. 7, Rs. 7.50, Rs. 8, Rs. 8.50, Rs. 9, Rs. 9.50, Rs. 10, Rs. 10.50, Rs. 11, Rs. 11.50, Rs. 12 and Rs. 12.50.

The enhanced rates of temporary increase will be admissible with effect from the 1st April, 1958, and will be in lieu of the previous monthly rates namely Rs. 4, Rs. 5 and Rs. 6, whether the previous rates were separate additions to basic pension, or were included in consolidated rates of pension.

Coal Crisis

*557. {
 Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:
 Shri Anirudh Sinha:
 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
 Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
 Shri Achar:
 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
 Shri Raghunath Singh:
 Shrimati Renuka Ray:
 Shri Bimal Ghose:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that Railway Minister recently held consultations with the Minister of Steel Mines and Fuel along with senior officers of the respective Ministries to try to solve the Coal Crisis; and

(b) what are the conclusions arrived at these high level consultations?

The Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement showing the important conclusions arrived at is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(i) The Coal Controller, instead of allotting wagons for coal from day to day, will make the allotment for a period of ten days at a time. This is with a view to provide some flexibility

to the Railways in the execution of the movement programme. Any special allotment required to be made by the Coal Controller even within the 10 day period to meet unforeseen emergent situations will be complied with by the Railways.

(ii) Loading of coal should be on all seven days of the week.

(iii) Progress of coal washeries for Steel Plants should be expedited.

(iv) With a view to improve the quality of coal supplied to Railways, it was necessary to beneficiate lower grade coals by setting up non-coking coal washeries. The further measures to be taken on this behalf will be examined on high priority.

(v) In the meantime, the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel will take action to ensure that coal of proper quality and size is supplied for Railways' loco requirements.

(vi) The need for opening of coal dumps at different places in the country and loading bunkers at the major collieries was recognised. The Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel would pursue the matter vigorously with the State Governments and the coal industry.

(vii) Movement of iron ore for the Rourkela Steel Plant should be arranged as early as possible from Barsua iron ore mines as envisaged in the original plan for iron ore movement to the Rourkela Steel Works.

(viii) The Ministry of Steel, Mines and Fuel will take action to have adequate arrangements made in the various steel works to ensure expeditious unloading and return of inward loaded stock.

(ix) The Railways will provide adequate transport to meet the full requirements of the steel plants including requirements for the stockpiling of coal for the new blast furnaces to be commissioned shortly.

(x) During the busy season starting from November, 1960, the Rail-

ways would endeavour to maintain the overall availability of wagons for coal loading in the West Bengal/Bihar coalfields at 5,000 wagons a day, provided the decisions mentioned above are fully implemented.

Petroleum Products

*558. **Shri Kalika Singh:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of indigenous petroleum products to the total petroleum products consumed in India today, approximately, and what was the percentage in 1951;

(b) the extent to which the percentage of indigenous petroleum products will go up after the existing oil refineries go into full production; and

(c) what percentage of the total demand in India is likely to be met by petroleum products expected to be produced by all the newly discovered oil finds?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) About 75 per cent. now, while this was approximately 7 per cent. in 1951;

(b) Does not arise; the existing private sector refineries in the country are already in full production;

(c) When the Nunmati and Barauni refineries go into full production, approximately, 82 per cent. of India's requirements of petroleum products may be met from indigenous production.

Coal Consumption

*559. { **Shri Indrajit Gupta:**
Shrimati Benu
Chakravartty:

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

(a) whether the Coal Controller has directed that small-scale industry consumers should get only 75 per cent. of their consumption requirements; and