

### Coal Distribution

\*876. { Shri Shree Narayan Das:  
Shri Matin:

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

(a) the circumstances in which the Government of India have abolished the quota system for the brick burning coal and soft coke;

(b) the advantages resulting therefrom; and

(c) what arrangements have been made for future distribution of coal in general and brick burning coal in particular?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) The quota system was subject to a six-monthly review. At the last review in June 1957, it was found that the system had given rise to numerous complaints from consumers, who were experiencing considerable difficulties in locating coupons. They also had limited choice in the matter of selecting individual collieries for their supply and this gave rise to complaints against the quality of coal. Also at the time of the review there was considerable reduction of the pit-head stocks. So the system was abolished with effect from the 1st July, 1957. The quota system for soft coke, however, is continuing.

(b) It was expected that by this change, the consumers will have a greater choice in selection of collieries and would get supplies with greater facility.

(c) But for the abolition of the quota system for brick burning coal, which used to be superimposed on the distribution of coal, there is no other change.

### National Book Trust

\*877. Shri Ram Saran: Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether the first meeting of the National Book Trust has been held;

(b) if so, decision taken by them; and

(c) whether they will publish books in general?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of Lok Sabha. [See Appendix III, annexure No. 8.]

(c) Yes, Sir, the books of general interest for which the Trust has been set up.

### Asiatic Society, Calcutta

\*878. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Education and Scientific Research be pleased to state:

(a) whether revised proposals have lately been received from the Asiatic Society, Calcutta, for financial assistance; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposals are under consideration.

### Copper Requirements

\*879. Shri B. S. Murthy: Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to refer to the replies given to the supplementaries raised on Starred Question No. 451 on the 30th July, 1957 and state:

(a) the total requisite quantity of copper needed for country's use during the Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) the total quantity available from indigenous sources?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) The total quantity of copper required for the country's use during the Second Five Year Plan is estimated at 1,90,000 tons.