

Railway Wagons for Coal Supply

892. SHRI RATILAL VARMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the SSI units face hardship in getting the coal in time due to lack of coordination between CIL and Railways in allocating wagons for coal supply;

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the industrial units in Gujarat are getting inferior quality of coal;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken in the matter;

(e) whether the Government propose to privatise the distribution system of coal; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The matter pertaining to movement of coal and availability of wagons therefor is reviewed regularly in which representatives of Ministries of Coal, Railways and other Ministries participate and appropriate corrective action is taken to step up supply of coal to various consumers wherever necessary. The SSI Units sometimes do face hardship in getting coal by rail due to higher priority given to the core sector consumers in rail movement.

(c) and (d). Grade of coal to be supplied to the consumers is decided based on the type of coal required to be used in the coal burning equipment or processing/manufacturing activity. Coal supplies are effected accordingly.

There have been some complaints from consumers including consumers in Gujarat regarding quality of coal being supplied to them.

Coal is mined from earth's crust. Most of the Indian coal seams are inter-banded with shale/stone. Some of these stones/shales do get inter-mixed with coal in the process of mining. Steps being taken by coal companies to improve the quality of coal sent to consumers include the following :

- (i) An action plan for installation of feeder breakers and coal handling plants is being implemented to ensure quality of coal.
- (ii) Wherever feasible, stones are being segregated at the time of loading of coal.
- (iii) Better supervision is being ensured at the time of loading to maintain the quality of coal and to develop quality consciousness among workers, supervisors and executives engaged at railway sidings.

(iv) All consumers, including consumers in Gujarat, are encouraged to post their representatives at loading points to ensure quality of coal despatches.

(e) No proposal under consideration of the Government to privatise the distribution system of coal.

(f) Does not arise.

Inclusion of area Under M.M.R.D.A.

893. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there was a public demand for inclusion of entire area under the Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority in the jurisdiction of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited, Mumbai to serve the entire area more efficiently and promptly; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) Yes Sir. Requests have been received from various quarters to extend local call facilities to entire area of Mumbai Metropolitan Regional Development Authority by including it into Mumbai unit of M.T.N.L.

(b) The demand of local call facilities to entire area of M.M.R.D.A. was examined and found not feasible.

[Translation]

Unemployed Youths

894. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the number of unemployed Youths in the country by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the approximate number thereof and the number of the educated and uneducated youths out of them, separately;

(c) whether the Government have also estimated the increase in the number of unemployed youths in the country seeking jobs during the Eighth Plan period;

(d) if so, the estimated number thereof;

(e) the details of additional employment opportunities targeted to be created during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(f) the achievement made in this regard?