

**Abolition of Control over Coal Prices**

**8015. Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to abolish control over prices of coal;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the steps taken to see that there is no increase in prices after decontrol?

**The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi):** (a) Government have decontrolled with effect from the 24th July, 1967, the prices of all grades of coal and distribution control over all grades of coal except coking coal required by metallurgical industries.

(b) A comprehensive review is being made of the Colliery Control Order. A review simultaneously is being undertaken of the Coal Mines (Conservation and Safety) Act and the Rules framed thereunder. A decision has also been taken to do away with grading of coals on the basis of wagon and stack samples. Grading however of the coal seams in the collieries will continue to be done as hitherto. Further, with a view to bring about a voluntary regulation of movement and production, etc. of coking coals, it is proposed to set up a "Coking Coal Consultative Committee" comprising of the representatives of coal and steel industry in the public and private sectors.

(c) Since decontrol, the price of coal will be determined by the natural forces of demand and supply.

**Employment of Weavers**

**8016. Shri S. M. Solanki:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Weavers are suffering from unemp-

loyment due to the existence of textile mills over the last decade;

(b) whether Government propose to encourage powerloom industries by giving powerlooms to Weavers on a priority basis with subsidy; and

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

**The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir, but no subsidy is to be given for the installation of powerlooms.

(c) The steps taken to encourage powerloom industry include the following:—

(i) Powerloom industry has been declared as a small scale industry and made eligible for financial assistance under the State Aid to Industries Act and from other financing agencies.

(ii) The States and Union Territories have been allocated 1,10,000 powerlooms for installation during the fourth five year Plan. In the matter of distribution of these powerlooms, they have been advised to give preference to handloom weavers.

(iii) Handloom cooperatives installing powerlooms have been made eligible to financial assistance from the Government in the form of loans for the purchase of powerlooms and tapering management grant for three years.

(iv) Substantial concessions have also been given by way of differential excise duties on yarn consumed by and cloth produced by the cotton powerloom industry.

**Spinning Mill in Manipur**

**8017. Shri M. Meghachandra:** Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed project