

[*Translation*]

Reduction in the Cost of Coal

3555. SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any effort has been made by the Government to reduce the cost of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of success achieved with regard thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). effort made by Coal India Limited to reduce cost of production of coal include:

(i) Improved manpower planning including redeployment of surplus workers and restricting the intake of new employees against vacancies caused by natural wastage.

(ii) Control on increase in manpower through voluntary retirement scheme .

(iii) The Concept of 'all men-all jobs' is being tried on an experimental basis.

(iv) Improvement in the availability and utilisation of equipment by providing adequate workshop support, improved management of spares and timely rehabilitation of equipments.

(v) Increase in production and productivity with special emphasis on underground mines.

(vi) A number of systems improvement and managerial measures have been adopted to improve efficiency of operations.

(c) These efforts have yielded results in- as-much as the manpower, since 1985-86 has been kept more or less constant at around 6.7 lakhs, whereas production has increased from 134 million tonnes in 1986-86 to 189.6 million tonnes in 1990-91 i.e. by 41.5%. This increase has been achieved through increase in output per manshift from 0.92 tonnes to 1.29 tonnes during the period. As a result, the trend of increase in the unit cost of production prevailing in earlier years has been reversed since 1985-86. The cost of production has increased from Rs. 213.97 per tonne to Rs. 277.18 per tonne i. e. by 29.5% over this period as against the rise in wholesale price index (all commodities) by 45.5%.

[*English*]

Computer Parks

3556. SHRI RADHIKA RANJAN PRAMANIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Computer parks and names of places in the Country;

(b) the Criteria to open such type of parks;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up such park at salt Lake, Calcutta;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?/?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI-MATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) There is no specific scheme for setting up of Computer parks in the country. There is a scheme for Software Technology parks (STPS), which is 100% export oriented. These can be set up by the State Government. Central Gov-

ement or by the industry. However Government of India has set up seven STPs at Pune, Bangalore, Bhubaneshwer, Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram, Gandhinagar and Noida.

(b) The following are the criteria for location of Software Technology Parks by the Government of India:-

- (i) The State Government must be willing to provide land and buildings. Actual location, may be decided in consultation with the State Government of India.
- (ii) There should be an export potential or in states which are not developed in electronics, there should be the possibility of attracting investment and generating employment.
- (iii) The Software Technology Parks should become financially viable in the third year and should generate atleast Rs. 30 cores of export per annum.

(c) to (e). Government have decided, in principle, to set up a STP at Calcutta subject to availability of funds. In the meanwhile, action has been initiated by the Government of West Bengal to set up a Software Technology Park under the aegis of the West Bengal electronics Industries Development Corporation (WEBEL), Calcutta.

Health Care Scheme for Mine Workers

3557. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some health care schemes are being implemented by the Union Government to protect the interests of labour working in various mines.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to start a hospital for the benefit of labour working in lime stone pulverising unit of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant at Jaggaiahpetta;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

TELCO Collaboration for Cars

3558. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tata Engineering and Locomotive Company Limited (TELCO) has applied to the Union Government for permission to manufacture cars in technical collaboration with Honda of Japan;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange involved in this proposal;

(c) whether the Government have accorded the permission; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) to (d). M/s. TELCO Ltd., Bombay had submitted a proposal in August 1985, for entering into a collaboration with M/s. Honda Motor Company Ltd. Japan for the manufacture of passenger cars. The proposal was rejected since it involved a heavy commitment of foreign exchange amounting to nearly Rs. 600 crores.