

Objectives of Nationalisation of Coal

4482. SHRI G. BHOOPATHY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the objectives for nationalisation of coal have not been achieved in any significant manner;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether workers in coal mines have been provided elementary facilities for themselves and their families in terms of education, health and housing; and

(d) whether any job openings in industries other than coal mines have been provided for the families and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Improvement in the living standard of the coal mines and providing them welfare amenities has been given adequate priorities after nationalisation. During 1984-85, an amount of Rs. 55.00 crores was allocated by Coal India Limited for providing housing facilities. As in December, 1984, there were 445 dispensaries, 64 hospitals with 3911 beds, 544 ambulance vans, 973 Doctors including specialist, in Coal India Limited to provide medical facilities to colliery employees. At present 845 educational institutions are working in coalfield areas. Coal companies are also giving financial and other assistance for running various schools and colleges catering to the needs of the words of the colliery employees.

(d) Subsidiary Companies of Coal India Limited have developed ancillary units for production of consumable items like baskets, etc. in coal units to open up job avenues for local people including coal miners' families.

[Translation]

Development of Mines in Rajasthan

4483. SHRI LALA RAM KEN : Will

the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of mines in Rajasthan which are under the control of Union Government or their Corporations and the number of workers earning their livelihood from these mines;

(b) whether Union Government have any scheme for the development of these mines and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of mines in Bharatpur and the action being taken by Government to improve the lot of stone quarry workers ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Manufacturing of Inexpensive Cloth for Common Man

4484. DR. G. VIJAYA RAM RAO : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to use handloom industry for supply of cloth for public distribution system;

(b) if so, the reasons for such a shift in the earlier policy;

(c) whether Government are aware that small scale handloom industry has vast scope for exports oriented for special needs of various countries and should therefore be export-oriented rather than PDS-oriented; and

(d) whether Government propose to use large scale textile industry for manufacture of long lasting inexpensive cloth for the common man ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHUKHAR SINGH) : (a) No such decision has been taken by Government.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government are aware about the vast scope of exports for handloom items. However, handlooms are not currently PDS-oriented.

(d) NTC Mills are producing 8 million metres of polyester cotton blended shirting per annum under the controlled cloth scheme with effect from 15th August, 1983 priced at Rs. 10.50 per metre.

[Translation]

Issue of Fake Drafts in Central Bank

4485. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether fake drafts to the tune of crores of rupees have been issued by the Central Bank of India;

(b) whether any inquiry has been made into this matter; and

(c) if so, the findings of the inquiry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (c). The Central Bank of India has reported that six fake drafts aggregating Rs. 3,78,600/- were paid in clearing during 1984 at its three local branches in Bombay and three local branches in Jammu. The bank has further reported that seven fake drafts aggregating Rs. 3,07,700 were presented at its seven local branches in Nagpur. However, the fraud was averted and the culprit has been arrested. The bank has lodged FIR with the local police authorities and the police investigations are in progress.

[English]

Loss to Government due to Hike in Prices of Steel

4486. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in the past

when prices of steel were increased, anticipating the hike, from certain quarters heavy purchases of steel were made and as a result there was a great loss to Government;

(b) if so, who made such heavy purchases of steel and what was the loss incurred; and

(c) whether there has been a recurrence of the same situation during the recent hike in prices of steel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (c). An analysis of total monthly domestic sales of steel by SAIL during the months preceding the months in which steel prices were increased during 1984-85, viz., June, 1984 and February, 1985 reveals that no heavy or abnormal sale of steel took place in anticipation of price hikes.

Auditing of Accounts of Nationalised Banks by Comptroller and Auditor General

4487. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to entrust the auditing of accounts of all nationalised banks to the Comptroller and Auditor General of India from the existing procedure of auditing by the Chartered Accountants; and

(b) in view of the fact that all the accounts of the public undertakings, are done by the Comptroller and Auditor General, whether Government propose entrusting the auditing of accounts of the nationalised banks also to Comptroller and Auditor General ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

Proposal to Setting up more Tea Industries

4488. SHRI R. ANNANAMBI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up more tea industries in order