

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited, Durgapur, a Government of India Undertaking, is not getting proper support in the matter of supplies to coal and lignite sectors even when its tenders remain lowest with highest technical performance;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the details of tenders submitted for supply of machinery and equipments to various other public sector undertakings during 1984 and 1985; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to support the Mining and Allied Machinery Corporation Limited to enable it to perform well as a public sector undertaking ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) and (b). The decision on tenders for placement of orders is based on relevant commercial and technical considerations. However, MAMC has been rendered support, as feasible, for placement of orders from Coal Sector amongst others.

(c) Some of the major steps taken include assistance for securing long term orders; modernisation of the existing facilities; strengthening the management with a view to improving productivity, and providing financial assistance.

Steps to bring down coal prices

4413. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chairman of Coal India is reported to have stated that the cost of coal in India is as high as petrol, as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' 14 November, 1985;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to bring down the price of coal ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). On the occasion of the completion of a decade of Coal India Limited, the Chairman-cum-Manag-

ing Director, Coal India Limited addressed the employees of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries in the form of an appeal to improve companies performance and to achieve the objectives for which the coal industry was nationalised. In that appeal he brought out certain salient feature of the performance against the backdrop of objectives set for nationalisation of coal industry. He had also addressed a PRESS CONFERENCE on various issues. The News Papers covered that Press Conference in various ways.

The pit-head price of coal is fixed after a cost study, taking into consideration the increase in the cost of inputs such as wage bill, storages, PLO etc.

All efforts are being made to increase production and productivity in the coal companies with a view to providing them with a sound financial base as well as to make them fully poised to meet the growing demands of coal in the years to come. Various measures being adopted to increase production and to improve productivity in coal companies include investment in new mines, fuller utilisation of mining capacity already created, more efficient use and better maintenance of equipment, stricter control of inventory and economy in the use of stores, better use of manpower by controlling absenteeism and enforcing discipline and identification of surplus workers and their re-deployment after suitable training better availability of scarce inputs like explosives, timber etc., reduction of pit-head stocks by faster movement and more systematic distribution, expeditions and timely completion of new projects and improvement in the law and order situation and control over mafia activities in Bihar-Bengal coal fields.

Strike at Vishakhapatnam Refinery by HPC

4414. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the workers of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. Refinery at Vishakhapatnam went on strike for about 42 days recently;

(b) whether the strikers included one of the foreigners working for the corporation;

(c) if so the details of the demands of the workers; and

(d) whether any agreement has been reached?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The demands included reinstatement of workers removed from service, non victimisation of workers, provision of amenities and safety measures etc.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Problems Created by Drift in Policy to Import TPA

4415. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are seized of the problems created by drift in policy to import TPA, a superior fibre than DMT; and

(b) whether Government have investigated their earlier decision to permit import of dilapidated machines and technology for DMT manufacture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) There is no drift in import policy for TPA and DMT since both the items are under appendix III of import policy. The DMT and TPA are both the alternative raw materials for the manufacture of polyester fibre and yarn.

(b) No, Sir.

Production of IMT and PTA

4416. DR. A. K. PATEL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the world production of DMT and PTA in each of the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that more new plants in the Far East are being set up for

the manufacture of PTA rather than DMT; and

(c) whether it is a fact that according to ICICI report, PTA is a more cost efficient raw material?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETROCHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAI-CHANDRA SINGH) : (a) The world production of DMT and PTA during 1980, 1981 and 1982 has been reported as follows :

	DMT (tonnes)	PTA (including MTA) (tonnes)
1980	34,95,000	23,05,000
1981	38,35,000	25,10,000
1982	41,00,000	27,70,000

(b) Government is not aware of this.

(c) DMT and PTA are alternative raw material for manufacture of polyester. PTA will be more cost efficient raw material if the prices of both DMT and PTA are at par.

Increase in prices of Vespa XE Scooters

4417. SHRI ANAND SINGH :
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANI-
GRAHI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any regulation imposed by Government to ensure that the private manufactures of two-wheeler scooters, motor-cycles and mopeds do not arbitrarily increase the prices of the vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether M/s. Lohia Machines Ltd. has arbitrarily increased the prices of Vespa XE-100 cc considerably, after collecting lot of money as earnest money from intending purchasers announcing its price at around Rs. 9000;

(d) if so, the extent of increase in price and the reasons thereof;