

on. These are the technologies which have to be introduced in our refineries from an environmental angle. Otherwise, our refineries are working very efficiently in excess of their full capacity. As I mentioned earlier, if there is any specific case, the hon. Member may bring it to my notice.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS : I am talking about flaring of natural gas Sir.

[Translation]

### Supply of Coal

\*703. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :  
SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been short supply of coal during the last few months to the captive power plants in the country particularly in the northern region against their requirements;

(b) if so, the monthly requirement of coal of these captive power plants;

(c) the quantum of coal supplied to these plants from January to March, 1995;

(d) whether the coal supplied to these plants was much less than their requirements;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the coal was not available in the stock of the Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries; and

(g) if coal was available, the average quantum of coal in their stock during the said months?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA) : (a) to (e). As against the programme of 14.11 lakh tonnes for movement of coal to the captive power plants in the northern region during the period January to March, 1995, the actual quantity of coal supplied to them by Coal India Limited (CIL) was 10.90 lakh tonnes (Provisional). CIL have reported that the coal supplies to captive power plants by rail have been affected due to short supply of wagons by the Railways. For units taking coal by road/ropeways the materialisation was about 94% and the shortfall is mainly on account of lesser drawal by the consumers.

(f) and (g). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(f) Adequate quantities of Coal are available with subsidiaries of CIL, to meet the requirements of captive power plants in the northern region.

(g) According to the information received from CIL, average stock of coal with CIL group of Companies during the said period was 40.86 million tonnes.

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has tried to avoid his responsibility by stating short supply of wagons by railways. Whereas the facts are totally different. So, I want to ask him about part (a) of my question, as to whether it is a fact that the R.L.Mishra Committee stated that :

[English]

"Deliberate and systematic over-reporting of coal production since 1983 to the extent of 75 lakh tonne valued at Rs. 233 crore, 'slaughter mining' and massive theft of coal, instigated by the top management of Bharat Coking Coal Limited is coating the nation dearly."

[Translation]

The Committee further stated that :

[English]

"The Committee has flayed the BCCL management for deliberately feeding false and misleading data on coal production to the entire nation, as coal being a basic infrastructure industry, its production data is fed to the highest levels in the country."

[Translation]

Further the Committee Stated one important thing that :

[English]

"The report indicates Coal India Ltd. and BCCL managements for covering up over-reporting of production through shortloading of wagons and dispatching stones to customers instead of coal".

[Translation]

The Committee pointed out many serious irregularities, as a result of which coal supply is not being made. The Committee was appointed by the Coal Ministry. What did you do after the report of the Committee was received? Will you place the report on the table of the House and also state the action taken thereon by your Ministry?

[English]

SHRI AJIT PANJA : Sir, the R.N. Mishra Committee had nothing to do with the supply of wagons by the railways for the transportation of coal. That Committee went in to find out whether the stock of coal that has been reported, is correct or not. If my memory does not fail me, a single man Committee went to BCCL and found, not the stocks of the last few months but the stocks of the earlier years, that is of 1989-90. The Committee found out as to what was the loss at that

time and whether there was any over-reporting or not. That report has been given. Action is being taken by the coal companies according to the recommendations of that report, after complying with law of the land.

It is not a fact that Railways Wagons are not used by CIL because in 1990-91, the percentage of growth of loading of coal in the railway wagons was 3.80 per cent. Next year, that is 1991-92 it increased to 8.40 per cent. It increased to 7.2 per cent in 1992-93 and in 1993-94 the increase is 7.3 per cent. From 135.16 million tonnes in 90-91 it increased to 168.50 million tonnes.

Sir, it is a very big country where sometimes the wagons - because of other priorities - goes elsewhere. Every week the Coordination Committee sits and on a weekly basis monitoring is done and where necessary difficulties are corrected. We are having good cooperation with Railways I have not bent in my question. I have stated actual facts. I can assure this House that we have enough coal to supply for all the wagons that are coming in due time.

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mishra Committee and K.S. Sinha Committee in their reports mentioned gross irregularities being committed and the manner in which scandals were being done in the coal industry has not been replied to

MR. SPEAKER : Reply of 1989 relates to that Committee.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Leaving that, I would ask another supplementary question. Whether it is a fact that during 1994-95, railways made you available 16793 wagons in first part, but you utilised only 15575 wagons resulting in short supply of coal to the extent of 86 lakh tonnes. Likewise, during April to June, you utilised only 15722 wagons out of 16271 wagons made available and allowed 4009 wagons to remain unutilised. Similarly, during the second half of the year only 14261 wagons were put to use as against the target of 15431 rendering 6635 wagons idle. Therefore the main reason for short supply of coal can be subscribed to dereliction of duty and rampant corruption in your Ministry and for that reason railways did not supply you wagons.

SHRI AJIT PANJA : Sir, neither any such corruption charges against the Department have come to the notice of the Government nor has the hon Member ever mentioned it to me before although I am meeting him almost everyday during this Budget Session. It is not a fact that wagons have been supplied but have not been utilised.

Sir, in the first quarter of 1994, the target was 16,272 and the supply of four-wheeler wagons per day was 15,760. In the second quarter, the target was 15,431 and the supply was 14,599. In the third quarter the target was 16,758 and the supply was 16,215. This was an improvement.

In the fourth quarter the target was 17.857 and the actual loaded per day availability was 17,217. The supply was made not according to the target but as per the actual. The coal was duly loaded as per the actual figure of wagons supplied and was despatched.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : There are not my figures. They are there in the Government record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, 3 lakh tonnes of Coal was short-supplied during three months from January to March on account of non-availability of railway wagons. We have with us report of R.C.C. which shows that Rs.1100 crore Railways were outstanding against Coal India and Electricity Boards using coal and railways do not supply wagons to them as a result of which coal supply does not reach there. As a consequence thereof, there is frequent Power breakdown in northern India. We have been watching it during the last 3-4-5 days. Now the Railways say that until their outstanding money is paid they would not supply wagons. But you have simply said that wagons did not come. Therefore, my question is whether you discussed about it with Railway Minister and Electricity Boards as to why such thing is happening and what are the ways to ensure supply of wagons?

[English]

SHRI AJIT PANJA : This cast position is a good suggestion and in fact it is being implemented. A Coordination Committee meets every week, in which a number of representatives are there.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : You ask the Minister. Ministers for Railways and Coal are sitting here.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not so. If you ask the Minister to do all jobs, he will not come to Parliament.

SHRI RAM NAIK : If he does not come in Parliament it will do but it is getting dark.....(Interruptions). It is not a serious situation.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let him answer in his own fashion. You cannot expect the Minister to look after everything. Let him look after the policy.

SHRI AJIT PANJA : The hon. Member will be pleased to know...

MR. SPEAKER : Now that he has suggested, you will probably meet the Minister.

SHRI AJIT PANJA : Sir, I met the Railway Minister twice and gave him a detailed report which I received from the companies. I also wrote a letter to him. He immediately replied to me the next day, suggesting the way in which a solution could be found out. Officers are meeting every week. With the good cooperation of the

Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Coal, we are trying to resolve the problem. As I said, a huge quantity of coal is being loaded in this country and wagons carry it to the destination.

MR. SPEAKER : A very good suggestion has been made that there should be coordination between the two Ministries and the Government is looking into it.

SHRI AJIT PANJA : A coordination Committee is there which is doing very good job.

MR. SPEAKER : Probably the hon. Member wants coordination at the Ministers' level.

[Translation]

SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say through you that there is short supply of coal and the coal being sent to plants is not of good quality. Numerous complaints have been received regarding more ash content therein. Quality of coal supplied is not proper and there is also in short quantity. State Electricity Boards also, complain of inferior quality of coal supplied to them. Will the hon. Minister take steps for better co-ordination and ensure supply of good quality of coal? Has the Central Government, formulated any scheme to supply good quality of coal to plants after removing ash from coal?

SHRI AJIT PANJA : The attempt made by the company is to supply quality coal to the consumers. In fact we insisted that the bulk consumers, like the State Electricity Boards and others, at the pithead itself can have a team of their own of can appoint an independent surveyor to check the quality of coal then and there. There are four or five mines and if at a particular loading station there is not a very good quality coal from a particular mine, they can chose another one.

After it travels 1000 km or more, it reaches the powerhouses. If a dispute is raised, about quality and quantity feel that under the law the coal companies are not responsible for the reason that sale of coal takes place at the pit-head. Thereafter, the railway receipt and the forwarding note are given which are signed by the railways, signed by the coal companies and also signed by the consumers if they had their own inspecting agents or their own inspectors. Over and above, the Coal Controller is there to check it and the Coal Consumer Council is there to look after it. Therefore, Sir, we are trying to impress upon the companies to have more coal handling plants, more electronic gadgets to look after the quantity and so far as the quality is concerned we have been asking them to put up more washeries. In fact, we have only 19 washeries now; we need 50 more. But a certain gestation period is required for the purpose of setting up these projects. Attempts are always being made to benefit the consumer of coal. But the consumer must pay, which is not being properly done in all cases.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY : I would like to ask one question about the committee referred to by Shri Panja. Whether it is a fact that the report of that committee had been received before his appointment as minister? I think he must have read of Mishra Committee's report properly. Mishra Committee report pointed out grave irregularities, about which Shri Lodha said that people are supplied with stone in place of coal. As such, Minister's statement that the report is old does not hold good.

MR. SPEAKER : That report is of 1989.

SHRI RABI RAY : Was Mishraji given any punishment after the submission of Mishra Committee report, because his report was against vested interests? Do the recommendations of Mishra Committee hold good today also and whether complaints therein still exist or not?

[English]

SHRI AJIT PANJA : On this, as I said, wherever the companies found that the report is logical, they are taking steps. We have got our statutory teams which carry out inspection quarterly, half-yearly, annually. Those teams are going into the details so far as the coal stock is concerned. But, of course, wherever the companies found that there is cogent reason for taking steps, various steps are being taken...*(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY : Was he punished or not, it is my question....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHHOTAY SINGH YADAV : I would like to know as to whether the most important agency amongst the agencies through which coal is supplied and which look after transport and handling of coal is State co-operative marketing federation? All state marketing federations enjoy major share in transport and handling. But the allotment made to them is the lowest and their supply is shortest. Will the minister give justification for their policy of discrimination in allotment against co-operative societies, which do not owe any amount to any company? Will the Minister make such an arrangement whereby proper allotment can be made through co-operative societies like others?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Are you going to use the cooperative societies for transporting coal? That is exactly what he wants to know.

SHRI AJIT PANJA : Sir, I do not know whether they are actually being used or not. I have to look into it before I say anything.

SHRI CHHOTAY SINGH YADAV : All the cooperative societies are involved in this work. They are doing this work.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : It has become a permanent question as to whether there is shortage of wagons or coal supply. I will request you to make the ministers for Railways and Coal reply on the same day, so that reality may come to light.

MR. SPEAKER : Whatever you may do they will remain friends and will not quarrel.

PROF. RITA VERMA : From the replies we hear, it appears that both the ministries and ministers do not belong to one Government. They reply in different ways. My submission is that it is wrong to say that the report of R.N. Mishra Committee, which was referred to here, pertains to 1989. It was received in 1994 and deadline for the action to be taken was by 15th June and what action was to be taken against the persons found guilty was mentioned therein. I know numerous complaints came, particularly from Ropar Thermal Power Station, Which is linked with Bharat Coking Coal, which lies in my area. Frequent complaints came that in place of coal, stone and rocks were loaded. In spite of all that the guilty persons were not punished. They are very much in service. Some of them retired, some are still in service. But any action against none of them has perhaps been taken. When action is not against any and follow up action on a committee's report is not taken, what is the use of it all. As such, the problem remains as it was. I want to ask the Minister about the number of such guilty officers under whose responsibility such things happened, punished so far, and whether the Ministry proposes to take any action in regard thereto.

[English]

SHRI AJIT PANJA : Sir, certainly, action had been taken against the persons who were found guilty. R.N. Mishra Committee had given a Report and the Government had examined it. We found that in some cases tenets of natural justice had been violated. The person against whom action had been recommended was not heard. Under the law of the land, we have to hear that person whom we are going to punish. So, I had ordered that a show cause notice and a charge sheet should be issued to those persons specifying the charges against him which should be answered by him. A lengthy charge sheet had been issued. Sir, action had been taken in one as two cases and there are cases which are still pending inquiry.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Whether any action has been taken on the complaint received against the Thermal Power Station?

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, bungling and theft in coal companies are a common phenomenon. I would

request the hon. Minister to go to these companies while going to Puri from Calcutta and see for Himself the stocks shown on record and the actual stock in the field. Each and every coal company will show certain quantity in their records but actually that is not available in the field. It is because the shortage at the root ultimately leads to this kind of an operation. When coal is not there, naturally, stones will be there. So, you have to keep certain things in the wagon itself. Are you going to personally see the stocks of each and every company or are you going to depute one independent body, apart from coal companies, to investigate whether there are stocks actually in the field or whether the stocks are actually on paper? Have you inquired into that?

SHRI AJIT PANJA : Sir I am not an expert to examine these 44 million metric tonnes of coal stock. I do not pose that I have that knowledge. In this system there are checks and balances. I have examined them. Firstly every quarterly account is taken in respect of stocks. Then six-monthly accounts are taken in respect of stocks. And finally yearly accounts are taken in respect of stocks. These are taken by an independent Committee

Then, Sir, the Parliamentary Committee is there. Shri Jaswant Singh is the Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee. It went into details and cross-examined all the officers. Whatever file was called for by that Committee, I had personally ordered that should be sent to the Committee. The files were sent to them. Last but not least, the Comptroller and detail. It is not easy to hoodwink all these checks and balances set up under the democratic framework. But I do not rule out that there may be some loopholes Somewhere. But this is the system under which are functioning.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been observed that in the recent past contracts for establishing captive power plants were given by the Government to some big industrialists, which did not at all help the unemployed and the big standing problem before the Government. Am I providing employment opportunities to the unemployed remains unresolved. Government is unable to provide any financial subsidy to the unemployed youth. Through you, I would like to be enlightened by the Minister whether any co-operative societies of labourers or unemployed youths will be allowed to set up captive power plants in future? Has the Government any such proposal? Will the Government think in this direction with a view to providing employment opportunities to the unemployed youth, labourers and others in the country, whose number is very big and increasing day by day? Will some incentives or preference be given to such classes and whether Government will think in that light looking to the enormous problem of unemployment?

[English]

SHRI AJIT PANJA : Sir, it is done through open tenders. If there is any such cooperative of labourers, they can certainly quote in the tender. It has to be done through tenders. But it requires a lot of investment for putting up a power plant. If there is any cooperative of labourers, they can certainly quote in tender and there is no bar on that account.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : I want to know from the Minister for Coal about the recent over-reporting of Rs. 67 lakh in CPC.L., regarding which the C.M.D. of the company Shri R.N. Mishra appointed an inquiry committee. What is the report of that inquiry committee. Whether the allegation has been found to be correct in the inquiry report? If so, what action is being taken by Government in regard thereto?

[English]

SHRI AJIT PANJA : Sir, I have already replied to this question.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are 2600 industries in Firozabad in Uttar Pradesh and almost all of them depend on coal or kerosene oil. There are different industries, from making bangles to manufacturing of two-wheelers and their headlights. The goods manufactured in those industries are supplied to the places not only in India, but exported abroad also. Yet those industries are not being supplied coal in accordance with their requirements. When supply of coal is made, it is of an inferior quality. Third class quality is supplied to them, which includes sufficiently big stones, which causes problems before those industries.

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask quickly as the time is very short now.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : In this connection I wrote two letters to the Coal Ministry, one during 1993, receipt of which was acknowledged by the ministry and I was told that the same had been forwarded for further action in the matter. When I sent another letter to the ministry, I received the same reply which I had received earlier. I want to emphasize that we never get any satisfactory reply from your side. What is the reason and the remedy?

MR. SPEAKER : Time is over now.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Through you, I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether Government is taking any action against the officers responsible for supply of inferior quality of coal to industries and who are involved in the corruption?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Modernisation of Postal Service

\*704. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise postal service in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the plan to extend postal service even to in-accessible parts of the country; and

(c) the measures being taken to enlist the support of the villages (Panchayats) with a view to extending further the postal network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The objectives of the Eighth Five Year Plan of the Department of Post *intra* include modernisation of the postal services with necessary technological inputs and also expansion of the postal network to rural areas not having postal facilities. In so far as the latter objective is concerned, targets for opening of post offices are being fixed under each Annual Plan subject to the availability of resources. During the Eighth Five Year Plan, it is proposed to open 1440 extra departmental Branch Post Offices in rural areas.

(c) in order to accelerate the programme for providing basic postal facilities to rural areas, while containing the outgo from budgetary resources in terms of recurring expenditure a new scheme viz. the Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana has been formulated, details of which are being worked out. Under this scheme, basic postal facilities are proposed to be extended to villages not yet provided with a post office, through Gram Panchayats, on a contractual basis.

### Trifed

\*705. SHRI LAETA UMBREY : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) has any offices in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the total amount transacted during each of the last three years;

(c) whether any agricultural produce from the Region has been exported;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The TRIFED has one Zonal Office at Guwahati under which there are two Project Offices located at