

(e) The following steps have been taken to remove the constraints and step up coal production :

- (i) An enquiry committee under the Chairmanship of Shri K. S. R. Chari, former Secretary, Department of Coal, has been appointed to examine *inter-alia* the present production capability of ECL and recommend measures for improvement in production, productivity, utilisation of man-power and machinery and management in general.
- (ii) Improved power supplies to coal mines.
- (iii) Controlling absenteeism by taking action under relevant provisions of the labour laws. This has resulted in reduction of absenteeism.
- (iv) Expediting acquisition of lands for mine construction purposes.
- (v) Provision of necessary infrastructural facilities for coal mining.
- (vi) Close monitoring of the performance of collieries at all levels in the company and in the Department of Coal.
- (vii) Improvement of law and order situation in the coalfields with the assistance of the State Governments.
- (viii) Opening of new mining projects and modernisation of existing mines.

Increase in Coal Prices

5133. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Coal India Limited has recommended increase in the prices of coal;
- (b) if so, the details of the recommendations;
- (c) the reasons why the Coal India Limited has recommended increase in coal prices; and
- (d) the contemplation of Government in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) to (d). Coal India Limited has indicated the anticipated costs of production for 1985-86 taking into account the increase in costs of inputs, additional dearness allowance, bonus etc. No decision has been taken by the Government.

Studies made for finding out alternative sources of energy to coal and atomic power

5134. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

- (a) the details of the studies made by Government for finding out alternative sources of energy to coal and atomic power; and
- (b) the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government for conservation of coal and avoid wastage in coal mines ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) a

(a) The Government is implementing comprehensive programme of R and D, Demonstration, Industrial Production and Utilisation relating to New and Renewable Sources of Energy. The alternative sources of energy include Solar Energy, Wind Energy, Biogas, Biomass, Tidal, Geothermal etc. Various renewable energy devices and systems such as solar cookers, solar water heaters, solar timber kilns, photovoltaic systems, biogas plants have been developed in the country and are being popularised through various measures. A few demonstration projects for electricity generation through wind farms are also being taken up. Studies have also indicated that a substantial amount of electrical generating capacity could be supported through biomass resources in energy plantations.

(b) The work already done and is being made in the area of conservation of coal and to avoid wastage in coal mines includes :

- (i) Recovery of reserves by new methods of mining such as large opencast mines and longwall technology etc.
- (ii) Control of fires in a number of coal seams.