

(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 PATTAIAK : 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.

- (iii) Introduction of modern methods of beneficiation to give better yield of washed coal.
- (iv) Amalgamation of smaller mines into larger units. Such reconstruction will release considerable amount of coal which would have been lost in the barriers.
- (v) Utilisation of washery rejects for power generation and for stowing in the underground mines.
- (vi) Increased use of sand/crushed stones for conservation and safety. This will also result in greater recovery of insitu coal from the underground mine.
- (vii) R and D projects have been taken up to economise coking coal consumption in steel plants.

[*Translation*]

**Growth of Powerlooms Danger to Handloom Sector**

5135. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the growth of powerlooms secretly is likely to pose a danger to the organised handloom sector in the long run;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to check their growth; and

(c) if so, the details of the progress made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND TEXTILES (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) :  
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The powers to detect unauthorised powerlooms and to proceed against persons responsible for operating unauthorised powerlooms are available with the State Governments under the Essential Commodities Act.

[*English*]

**Promotion of SC/ST Sub-ordinate Staff to Clerical Cadre in New Delhi Branches of State Bank of India**

5136. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether relaxation of two years in experience for promotion from subordinate staff to clerical cadre available to the subordinate staff belonging to SC/ST communities, has been abolished in the New Delhi local head office, branches and offices of State Bank of India; and

(b) If so, the reasons for withdrawing this concession ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). In terms of the existing Government guidelines, reservation for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes employees does not apply to a cadre to which direct recruitment is 66 $\frac{2}{3}$ % or more. State Bank of India has reported that direct recruitment to the clerical cadre in that bank is more than the aforesaid percentage. The reservation in promotion from subordinate cadre to the clerical cadre is, therefore, not applicable to this cadre. As there is no reservation the question of allowing relaxation does not arise.

**Production of Tobacco and its Prices**

5137. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of tobacco produced in each State during 1984-85;

(b) the guidelines followed in fixing minimum export prices for tobacco;

(c) the guidelines followed in fixing minimum support prices for tobacco to be purchased from tobacco growers; and

(d) the details of minimum export prices for different grades of tobacco and the details of minimum support prices for corresponding grades of tobacco for the current season ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The final estimate of production of tobacco statewide during 1984-85 is not yet available. The break-up of production of tobacco during 1983-84 in the major states is as follows :—