

(d) whether North Bengal is facing crisis of coal, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). At present there is no thermal power station operating in North Bengal requiring coal. However, the coal companies are making adequate offer of coal for supply to the thermal power stations in the State of West Bengal. The Power stations could not make full use of this offer due to poor release of wagons by them. The power stations have also failed to move linked coal by road adequately due to their own transport problems. In regard to tea gardens in North Bengal, coal supplies during the period January '84 to December '84 were 1,90,600 tonnes as against their sponsored quota of 1,86,300 tonnes per annum recommended by the Tea Board.

(d) No crisis of coal has been reported by tea gardens in North Bengal. Movement is being effected to these tea gardens regularly for building up their stocks even though most of them are normally not in production during the off-season.

**Payment of Dearness Allowance to Central Government Employees**

9. SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :  
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that instalments of additional Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees are not given when they become due and are delayed for months ; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the number of instalments of additional Dearness Allowance which are due to Central Government employees till date and the steps Government propose to clear them quickly ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) and (b). As on 18th January, 1985, two instalments of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees have become due for consideration with effect from 1-8-1984 and 1-11-1984 respectively. Payment of each instalment of Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees and relief to pensioners costs the exchequer approximately Rs. 70 crores and Rs. 8 crores per annum respectively. Therefore, the question of payment of each instalment of Dearness Allowance has to be considered carefully with regard to their impact on the economic situation and the budget. The question of sanction for payment of these instalments is receiving the attention of the Government.

[Translation]

**Drinking Water in Danapur Cantonment Board Area**

10. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the civilian population in Danapur Cantonment Board area in Bihar has to face drinking water crisis every year ;

(b) if so, whether a new water tank in the said Cantonment Board area had already been constructed ;

(c) if so, the reasons for not making supply of water therefrom ; and

(d) the time by which Government propose to make supply of water from the said water tank ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) No, Sir. The water supply is however, disrupted sometimes due to mechanical breakdown or power failure.

(b) to (d). To augment the water supply further a new water tank with a capacity of 4.5 lakh litres has been construct-

ed in the Danapur Cantonment Board area. Some ancillary works relating to installation of pump, electric installation and fittings of transformer which were entrusted to the Public Health Engineering Department, Bihar for execution still remain to be completed. The Cantonment Board authorities are in constant touch with the authorities of that Department to get the work completed and commission the water tank.

[*English*]

**Increase in Domestic Prices of Non-Ferrous Metals**

11. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the domestic prices of all non-ferrous metals except aluminium in the country are about double the world prices ;

(b) if so, the main reasons thereof, and how Government propose to compete in the international market with the present high prices ; and

(c) whether because of this heavy price of steel and non-ferrous metals in the country, the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited is unable to compete in the world markets as stated by the Chairman of the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited in a Delhi Seminar ?

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

(a) The domestic prices of non-ferrous metals in the country are considerably higher than the ruling world prices.

(b) The main reasons leading to this situation as are follows :—

(i) indigenous production often being undertaken with lower grade ores.

(ii) the input costs such as power Tariff are higher, and

(iii) the technology and equipment in use is many times not upto date, due to constraint resources.

The indigenously produced non-ferrous metals are primarily meant for the domestic market. However, when these metals are used for producing items which are exported, certain fiscal reliefs are provided in the form of duty drawback, cash, compensatory support etc.

(c) The Chairman, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited does not recollect having made any such statement in the recent past.

[*Translation*]

**Construction of Bharat Refractories Unit at Pithoragarh, U.P.**

12. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the time by which the construction work of Bharat Refractories Unit proposed to be set up in Dewalthal (Pithoragarh), Uttar Pradesh, is likely to start ;

(b) whether the site therefor has since been selected ; and

(c) if so, the details of the steps proposed to be taken by Government to fulfil the assurance given to rehabilitate the displaced persons elsewhere ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Pithoragarh Project of Bharat Refractories Limited envisages the mining of raw magnesite and the establishment of a plant for dead burning of magnesite in a rotary kiln. The construction work for the establishment the plant is likely to start in June, 1985. The site for the of plant has been selected.

(c) The Project authorities will give due concessions to displaced persons in the matter of employment as per Government policy.