

Railway Workshop at Tindharia

299. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state whether the Planning Commission has given clearance to modernise and expand the Railway Workshop at Tindharia in the district of Darjeeling ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : The Planning Commission's clearance is not required for such schemes.

[*Translation*]

Measures to increase production and Improve Quality of Coal

300. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coal India Ltd., a Government Coal Authority, has taken certain measures to increase coal production and to improve its quality ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Several steps have been taken to increase coal production. These steps include improving infrastructural facilities ; sanctioning of new mines, improving the productivity of men and machinery, expediting land acquisition for coal mining purposes and controlling absenteeism.

On the quality front, several measures have been taken for improving the quality of coal supplies. These include :

(1) Setting up of an independent quality control organisation in each coal company.

(2) Installation of more coal handling plants with provision for sizing and screening of coal wherever required.

(3) Breaking up of over sized coal and segregation of extraneous material by manual means, where CHP's do not exist.

(4) Introduction of a clause in the agreement with major consumers providing for joint sampling and payment on that basis ; and

(5) The Coal Controller as an independent authority has been given the powers to determine the grades of coal seams in the mines as also of the coal supplied to consumers and for these purposes to take samples and arrange for the testing of coal suo-motu or if any complaint is made in this regard by any consumers. The Coal Controller's decision in the matter shall be final.

Supply of Coal to Industry at Low Rates

301. SHRI HAFIZ MOHAMMAD SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rates of coal are exorbitant in Moradabad ; and

(b) whether Government propose to ensure adequate coal supply in that area at the normal rate ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Coal is moved to the linked consumers in Moradabad as well as in the other parts of the country from the collieries by rail. The shortfall in rail movement is made good by movement by road. As regards price, Government

fix pit head prices. The consumer's price of coal varies from place to place depending on the cost and mode of transportation, varying rates of royalty and other statutory charges.

[English]

Seizure of Sri Lanka Boat

302. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any inquiry has been made after the heavily armed Sri Lankan boat was seized on 11 January, 1985 when it intruded into India's territorial waters and fired on Indian fishermen off Rameswaram, and was taken to Pamban; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the inquiry ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) and (b). All aspects of the intrusion are being considered.

Implementation of Polavaram Project During Seventh Plan

303. SHRI C.H. SRIHARI RAO : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) the major irrigation projects included in the Seventh Plan;

(b) whether Polavaram Project is one of the projects included in the Seventh Plan; and

(c) if so, what is the position of implementation of Polavaram Project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) to (c). The Seventh Five Year Plan of the States including Andhra Pradesh has not so far been finalised.

Special Scheme for Backward Hilly Areas of Manipur

304. PROF. MECJIN LUNG KAMSON : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any provision for special scheme under the Planning for the backward hilly areas of Manipur; and

(b) if so, the scheme being drawn up, and the specific areas to be given priority and the total areas to be covered ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) and (b) In Manipur, the programmes under the tribal sub-Plan are being implemented in all the five hill districts of Senapati, Churachandpur, Ukhrul, Tamenglong and Chandel. An outlay of Rs. 98.07 crores has been provided from the State Plan and Rs. 18.24 crores from Special Central Assistance under the Tribal sub-Plan in the Sixth Five Year Plan. The Tribal sub-Plan aims at area development as well as economic assistance to tribal families to enable them to cross the poverty-line.

2. The State Government has under consideration special development programmes for extremely backward areas i.e. Vangai Range in Churachandpur district, Molcham area bordering Burma in Chandel District, and Tousem Block in Tamenglong District.

Recruitment of Manipur Youths to Defence Forces

305. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are taking steps to recruit Manipur youths to the defence forces;

(b) whether special rallies/melas are organised in this behalf;