

**[Translation]****Production of Pig Iron without using Coal**

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

(a) whether Government are exploring the possibility of utilising some foreign technologies which can be helpful in the production of pig iron without using coal;

(b) if so, when the process of exploring such possibility was taken up and the time by which the same is likely to be completed; and

(c) the capital likely to be invested in the proposed project and the likely capacity thereof and the names of the places proposed to be selected for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir, There is no attempt to produce pig iron without using coal. However, efforts are being made to explore the possibility of phased development of certain foreign technologies with the potential and relevance to the Indian conditions for the production of liquid iron using non-coking coal.

(b) The process of exploring such possibilities started in 1978. The likely date of completion of this exploration cannot be anticipated at this stage.

(c) Since exploration is not yet complete, the likely investment and the likely location of the plant cannot be anticipated at this stage.

**Review of Pay Scale and other facilities of Army Personnel**

360. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :  
SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a proposal has been received from the Army Headquarters suggesting formation of a high ranking army officers committee directly responsible to the Council of Ministers to review the whole gamut of pay scale and facilities given to the Indian army personnel, if not whether any such proposal is under consideration; if so, the details thereof and the reasons for which this necessity arose;

(b) whether the Army Headquarters have prepared any memorandum for consideration of Fourth Pay Commission suggesting grant of appropriate increase in the pay scales and facilities for the army personnel which have not been given to them so far according to their expectations; and

(c) whether Government propose to evolve a definite criteria or formula on the basis of which the pay of the army personnel would be increasing vis-a-vis rise in prices ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) In the proposals submitted to the Ministry for the consideration of the Fourth Pay Commission, the Army Headquarters have suggested the setting up of Permanent Body consisting of men of eminence and retired Senior Service Officers, accountable to the Council of Ministers, to monitor, review and up-date the entitlements of the Service Officers and personnel within the laid down policy frame work.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The whole gamut of pay structure of the armed forces personnel, including the criteria or formula for determining their pay scales, is at present being considered by the Fourth Pay Commission, and the Government decision in this regard would be taken only on receipt of the report of the Pay Commission.

**[English]****Steps to Equip Armed Forces with Nuclear war Heads**

361. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH :