

ment in Calcutta that Article 370 cannot be altered or deleted without the concurrence of people of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) The Government have seen news reports to this effect which appeared in the press in February, 1978.

(b) As had been stated earlier in reply to Unstarred Question No. 2144 on 29 June 1977, the Government do not propose to abrogate Article 370 of the Constitution.

Coal production during 1975-76 to 1977-78

2502. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state;

(a) the production of coal during the last three financial years, year-wise and production estimated for 1977-78;

(b) whether the production of coal has gone down during the year of 1977;

(c) what is the average daily output of coal at present as compared to the daily average last year; and

(d) whether any concrete steps have been taken to boost the production of coal and to meet the demand of coal and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Coal production during the last three years and estimate for 1977-78 is given below:

	(in million tonnes)			
	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	1977-78
	88.41	99.69	101.04	101
				(estimated)

(b) and (c) There has been slight drop in production during 1977-78 on account of interruptions in power supply to coal mines, strike in explosives/factory at Gomla and unusually

heavy rains. Coal production has picked up and the average daily rate of production in January, 1978 was 3.75 lakh tonnes compared to 3.63 lakh tonnes in January, 1977.

(d) As a result of steps taken to boost coal production, the average daily production in the month of February, 1978 has come up to 3.93 lakh tonnes as against 3.13 lakh tonnes in November, 1977. The demand for coal will be met during the current financial year.

Revision of planning priorities

2503. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER GUPTA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have seen the press reports that appeared in the *Times of India* dated the 3rd February, 1978 under the caption "Radical changes in plan priorities essential" wherein the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission had stated that Planning priorities will have to be revised radically if the promise of bringing basic services within the reach of the poorest in the next decade is to be fulfilled;

(b) whether he has also stated that the expansion of social services in the country has so far not brought proportionate benefit to the people; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The Planning Commission is preparing the draft Five Year Plan for 1978-83 based on the objectives of greatly increased employment opportunities and reduced poverty. Government expect the Commission to suggest ways of ensuring that certain basic services are made available to the poorest sections of the people within a definite time-frame. The draft Plan is shortly to be considered by the National Development Council.