

in Class IV, Class III, Class II and lowest rung of Class I;

- there should be reservation in promotion through limited departmental competitive examinations in Class II, III & IV;
- there should be separate zones of consideration for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes employees in Class III & IV;
- in Class I upto the pay of Rs. 2250 if the Scheduled Caste Scheduled Tribe employee is within the zone of actual vacancies, he should be selected provided he is not found unfit.

Furthermore, as an additional safety valve, an elaborate reporting system has also been devised and suitable orders have been issued, under which all cases of supersession of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe employees—

- in the matter of promotion to Group A and within Group A, should be submitted to Minister/Minister of State/Deputy Minister concerned;
- in the matter of promotion to Group B within Group B, should be reported to the Minister/Minister of State/Deputy Minister concerned within a period of one month of the finalisation of the select list;
- in the matter of promotion to and in Groups C & D, should be reported to the Head of the Department/Secretary of the Ministry or Department.

Coal Shortage

574. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER GUPTA:

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY:

SHRI GYANESHWAR PRASAD YADAV:

SHRI K. A. RAJU:

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of coal in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of industries which are suffering due to the shortage; and

(d) what steps Government have taken and propose to take to meet the situation and to increase the production of coal?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There is no acute shortage of coal in the country. However occasional distress calls are received from some consumers.

(b) The main reasons for inadequate supply of coal are the shortage and instability of power supply, shortage of explosives, heavy absenteeism, labour unrest, difficulties of rail transport and strike in singareni in April/May '78. The position has been aggravated by the flooding of a number of working mines in the Eastern Coalfields and the Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. on account of heavy rains in the eastern region in September, 1978.

(c) It may not be possible to indicate precisely the number of industries which are suffering due to the shortage of coal, but the industries complaining about coal shortage are mostly certain units of the textile, paper, chemicals and small scale industry.

(d) The coal companies are making all efforts to increase production of coal. Dewatering of the flooded mines

has been taken up but normal production from these mines may, however, take some time. Emergent measures have been taken to maintain coal supply by drawing on stocks and by increased despatches from mines not affected by the floods. Close coordination is maintained between the coal companies and the Railways to improve supply of coal to important sectors of the economy. Steps are also being taken to increase production from mines unaffected by floods.

Discussion and decisions arrived at with the Chairman of the British Jaguar Firm

575. SHRI SHYAM SUNDER GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. Freddie Page, Chairman of the Aircraft group of the nationalised British firm Aerospace, visited India during the month of October 1978;

(b) if so, whether the question for the manufacture and acquisition of the Jaguar fighter bomber aircraft was discussed with him; and

(c) decisions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Following the negotiations, British Aerospace made some consolidated final proposals to Govt., and, as agreed a letter indicating Government's 'Intention to Proceed' was issued in their favour, relating to the purchase, and production in India, of the Jaguar.

Electrification of Villages in Gujarat

576. SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages electrified in Gujarat State till April, 1978;

(b) whether any criteria has been adopted for electrifying villages; and

(c) whether any target has been fixed for electrifying all the villages in Gujarat State?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There are 18,275 villages in Gujarat. 8,191 villages (44.8 per cent) were electrified at the end of April, 1978.

(b) The State Electricity Board has intimated that villages which have agricultural load potential and also those in tribal areas are taken up for electrification on priority basis.

(c) Subject to availability of resources the electrification of all villages is likely to be completed by 1990-91.

Expenditure on Development of Tribal Area in Fifth and Sixth Plan

577. SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount earmarked for the development of tribal area in the country for the Fifth Five Year Plan;

(b) the amount spent Statewise;

(c) the details of work done; and

(d) the amount earmarked for the next Five Year Plan Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No. LT-2789/78]

(c) Special programmes for the Tribal Sub-Plan Areas have been taken up under all sectors of development, like agriculture, forests, cooperation, education, health, small scale industries etc.

(d) The State Plans for 1978-83 have not yet been finalised.