

(iii) Facilities have been offered to consumers experiencing shortage to move coal by road.

Long-term steps:

(i) Steps have been taken for higher production out of the existing mines and by opening up new mines;

(ii) Infrastructure is being added/enlarged/modified for higher and quicker loading of coal at pit-heads;

(iii) Railways are actively examining the steps through which line capacity could be improved for meeting increased demand for movement of coal.

(c) Frequent consultations are being held between officials of Department of Coal, Ministry of Railways and coal consuming departments for finding out how best and to what maximum extent coal demand of consumers could be met.

(d) Coal movement which was 8283 wagons/day in October, 78 has been increased to about 9850 wagons/day in February 79 and indications are that this is likely to be further improved in the coming months. There has been substantial higher movement of coal by road.

Indo-US Workshop on Oceanography held in Goa

2246. SHRI MUKUNDA MONDAL: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that an Indo-US Workshop on Oceanography was held in Goa in November, 1978;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) what is the attitude of the Government in regard thereto?

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

(b) and (c) The US Workshop was held at the National Institute of Oceanography, Goa, for 13th to 17th November, 1978. It was attended by fifteen US and thirtyseven Indian participants.

The Workshop was organised on the basis of a decision taken at the 3rd (June 1977) meeting of the Indo-US Sub-Commission on Science and Technology with the objective of working out possible areas and projects for joint research in oceanography. Research proposals evolved as a result of discussions at the Workshop are being examined.

People living below poverty line

2247. SHRI UGHAN SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI SUBHASH AHUJA,
SHRI D. AMAT,
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA;

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for bringing the people living below poverty line at par with common citizens;

(b) whether cooperation from States has also been sought in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outline thereof and the number of the people living below poverty line in the country at present and after the implementation of the scheme?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) The whole strategy of development adopted in the Draft Five Year Plan 1978-83 is directed towards eradication of poverty and removal of unemployment within a time frame of about 10 years and schemes have been drawn up accordingly.

(b) The Draft Plan was broadly endorsed by the National Development Council, which represents State Governments also, in March, 1978.