

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (c). A statement is attached. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 42.]

SALT

72. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to lay on the Table of the House a statement showing costs of production of salt at various Government Salt Sources centres and the retail selling prices per seer of salt prevalent at present in the various States?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): Two statements giving the information are attached. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 43.]

COAL

73. Shri Amjad Ali: Will the Minister of Production be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of coal during the year 1954 may record a further decline unless special measures are taken to facilitate speedy movement of coal from the pitheads:

(b) whether the shortfall in coal production is due to inadequate transport facilities; and

(c) how far the Indian Railways have co-operated in stepping up production by increased wagon supply?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) While it is difficult to make a dependable forecast, the present indications are that the total output of coal during 1954 may record a very slight decline as compared to last year.

(b) Partly due to inadequate transport facilities and partly due to fall in export demands.

(c) Within the existing facilities available, the Railways have cooperated fully in stepping up production by increased wagon supply, as will be seen from the daily average loading figures in the Bengal/ Bihar fields given below—

Year.	Average daily loading, Bengal/ Bihar fields (wagons).
1950	2849
1951	3020
1952	3165
1953	3112
1954 (upto 31-7-54)	3064

Wagon supply during the first 3 months of the current year was affected due to Kumbh Mela traffic. The daily loading average in July 1954 was 3347 wagons and upto 13th August, 3565 as against 3034 and 3020 during these months respectively in 1953.

VILLAGE INDUSTRIES (AID)

74. Shri Jhulan Sinha: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money made available during the years 1953-54 and 1954-55 so far for the development of village industries other than khadi, State-wise;

(b) whether the amount made available to the States has been utilised wholly by them; and

(c) whether there are any cases in which the amount granted has lapsed?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): (a) to (c). Information has been called for from the Khadi and Village Industries Board and will be laid on the Table of the House in due course.