

(c) the details of the scheme envisaged and from when it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The coal is released to the actual consumers only against the sponsorship issued by a competent authority. However, since 1st September 1980 keeping in view the increased availability of coal at the pitheads coal from certain indentified collieries is also being released free of any restriction to all purchasers. This scheme is on trial operation for a period of three months only. The consumption of coal within the State is controlled by the respective State Government under the powers vested in them under the Essential Commodities Act.

(c) Does not arise.

Foreign collaboration to modernise coal mines

1127. SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:
SHRI K. MALLANNA:
SHRI JANARDHANA
POOJARY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are proposing to import foreign technology to modernise coal mines in the country;

(b) if so, whether offers have been sought from some foreign countries, if so, their names and the terms of the offers;

(c) why it has not been possible to entrust the job of modernisation to Indian technocrats; and

(d) whether any final decision in this regard has been taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has received proposals from France, the U.K., Poland, Japan, West Germany, the U.S.S.R. and Romania.

(c) and (d). Foreign technology for under-ground and open-cast mining is being sought only in such cases where the technological expertise available within the country has not been adequate to deal with such problems.

Import of L.P. Gas

1128. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India are considering to import L.P.G. (liquified petroleum gas); and

(b) if so, what are the details of the proposal under consideration?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. During February—August, 1980,—31000 tonnes of L.P.G. has been imported. It is proposed to import some further quantities in the coming months.

Delegation to Mexico for import of crude

1129. SHRI ARVIND NETTAM:
SHRI M. RAMGOPAL
REDDY:
SHRI HIRALAL R. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level team visited Mexico to get crude for India; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the outcome of the said visit?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Mexico has agreed to supply 1.5 million tonnes of crude oil during 1981.

आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन के कर्मचारियों को बोनस

1130. श्री निहाल सिंह : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन के कर्मचारियों को बोनस के भुगतान के बारे में अन्तिम निर्णय इस बीच ले लिया गया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस सम्बन्ध में कितनी राशि वितरित की गयी है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो अब तक कोई निर्णय न किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं ?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्रि (कुमारी कुमुदबेन एम० जोशी) : (क) जी नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

(ग) आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन के कर्मचारियों को उत्पादकता पर आधारित अनुग्रह-पूर्वक अदायगी करने की योजना सरकार के विचाराधीन है ।

Increase in Price of Newspapers

1131. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that managements of newspapers have increased the prices of newspapers;

(b) if so, the reasons and the considerations for the increase;

(c) whether Government have examined and ensured that the rise in price of newspapers is justified; and

(d) if not, what steps Government propose to take in this respect?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI KUMUDBEN M. JOSHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Newspapers have claimed that the increase is because of higher production cost.

(c) Constitutionally Government cannot force the newspapers to fix their prices at fixed level.

(d) Second Press Commission is expected to study this aspect and the Government would be able to formulate its views only after the receipt of the Report of the Second Press Commission.

Plan to increase Coal Production

1133. SHRI K. A. RAJAN:

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-GRAHI:

SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR:

SHRI ARVIND NETAM:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a massive plan to increase the production of coal;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed plan;

(c) whether any foreign assistance has been sought for this plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government intends to increase production from 103.93 million tonnes in 1979-80 to 165 million tonnes in 1984-85.

(c) and (d). The Coal India Ltd. has entered into agreements with Poland, the U.K., the USSR and France for assisting in various aspects of coal mining industry.