

Profit and Loss of Coal Industry and Increase in Price of Coal after Nationalisation.

138. SHRI BASUDEV ACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENERGY: be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) profit and loss of each unit of coal industry in public sector for the year 1980; and

(b) when the coal price was increased after the nationalisation of coal industry and the extent of increase and the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) the accounts of Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiary companies for the year 1980-81 will be ready only after the close of the financial year.

(b) The average pit-head price per tonne of coal at the time of nationalisation was Rs. 37.50. Since then, the prices have been increased four times as follows:

Average price

On 1.4.1974	Rs. 47.50
On 1.7.1975	Rs. 64.92
On 17.7.1979	Rs. 101.18
On 14.2.1981	Rs. 128.02

The increase in price have been necessitated by the increase in wages and input costs.

Shortfall in Newsprint imports

139. SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a considerable shortfall in Newsprint imports; and

(b) if so, the action contemplated by Government to remedy the situation in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI KUMUD) BEN. M. JOSHI: (a) In spite of some

over contracting to allow for delays, there has been some shortfall in the actual import of the quantity required for the current quarter due to delay in shipment because of strikes in major mills and non-availability of vessels.

(b) Action has been taken by State Trading Corporation in making up the short supply by arranging supply of newsprint from the buffer stock in place of High Sea Sales orders.

Proposal to amend Hindu Marriage Act

140. SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the Hindu Marriage Act and the Special Marriages Act for introducing new grounds for divorce; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Law Commission, after carefully considering the various aspects of the matter, recommended in its Seventy-first Report that irretrievable breakdown of marriage may be made a ground for divorce under the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955, subject to certain safeguards for the protection of the wife and of the children of the marriage, and that either party to a marriage may file a petition on the said ground. It is proposed to introduce a Bill to give effect to the said recommendation and also to make similar amendments in the Special Marriage Act, 1954.

Imposition of a Cess on Feature Films

141. SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering imposition of a 'cess' on feature films with a view to create a 'Welfare fund' for the employees of the film industry;