

Pithead stocks of coal and negotiations for export

3266. SHEI RAM VILAS PASWAN :
SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the pithead stock of coal is more than 16 million tonnes and that Government are negotiating with some countries for its export;

(b) if so, the quantity (with value) of the coal presently being exported stating the names of the importing countries ; and

(c) whether domestic need of coal in various sectors such as industry power, etc. is being fully met enabling the Government to explore other markets for its export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN) (a) to (c). The present pithead stocks of coal in the country are about 16.00 million tonnes. A small quantity of 40,000 tonnes of low volatile coal for which there is no demand internally has been offered for export in which some countries have shown interest. MMTC through whom the export will be canalised are negotiating with the prospective buyers but not firm commitment has so far been made. Besides this, small quantity of coal is exported to the neighbouring countries, such as Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan, who take coal traditionally from India. The coal exported of these countries in April June 81 was about 37000 tonnes (23000 tonnes to Bangladesh; 8000 tonnes to Nepal; and 6000 tonnes to Bhutan). The value of the Coal exported during April June is estimated at Rs. 125 lakhs. The current production with the pithead stocks are adequate to take care of the internal demand and coal which is exported to traditional buyers will not affect the internal coal availability.

Dispute between Coal companies and State Electricity Boards over Quality and Price

3267. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE:
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) what steps have been taken on the dispute between Coal Companies and State Electricity Boards over quality of coal and coal prices ; and

(b) whether the Ministry of Energy have drawn the attention of the Finance Ministry in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN) : (a) Some State Electricity Boards have been complaining that coal of inferior quality is being received by them from the Coal suppliers. This has also relevance to the problems expressed by State Electricity Boards in regard to payments made for coal supplies. It has been decided that a team consisting of representatives from CEA and Coal India should go into these aspects in detail and suggest appropriate action for implementation. There has been considerable improvement in the overall coal supplies to the power station.

(b) No, Sir.

Difficulties faced by Alcohol Producing Units

3268. SHRI CHRISTOPHER EKKA:
Will the Minister of PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the main Alcohol producing States;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that most of the Alcohol producing units in various States are in grave crisis;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take for eliminating their difficulties ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Bihar, Haryana and Punjab are the main alcohol producing States.

(b) According to information received from State Governments, the plant of Alkali and Chemicals Corporation of India at Rishra (West Bengal) was closed down from 26th June 1981 mainly because of non-availability of alcohol. There have also been reports that the capacity utilisation of alcohol based industries in deficit States like West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh is low mainly due to inadequate availability of alcohol.

(c) and (d). The current alcohol year 1980-81 (December-November) has been a difficult year with the supply of alcohol and molasses falling considerably short of the demand. The Central Molasses Board had estimated that, in the current alcohol year, the availability of alcohol was likely to be only 4200 lakh litres, as against the likely demand of 5716 lakh litres. The State Governments were requested to