

Power Plants for Safety of Workers in Mines

1239. SHRI MADHURYYA HALDAR:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has been considering to have Power-plants for uninterrupted working and safety of workers in the mines; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) The Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. have purchased 16 Nos. of diesel engine sets totalling 20 M.W. generation capacity. These sets will be placed in 5 different stations in the Jharia coalfield. The installation work will be completed by the end of 1975.

Price of Stainless Steel Utensils

1240. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the prices of stainless steel utensils are being sold in the market at Rs 100/- per kilogram;

(b) the main reasons for ever increase in price of stainless steel; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to see the price of stainless steel coming down to a reasonable limit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. R. MAURYA):(a) to (c). With a view to conserving foreign exchange Government have not been releasing the foreign exchange required for manufacture of stainless steel utensils except for import replenishment licences under Registered Exporters

Policy. As a result, there is no release of foreign exchange directly for the manufacture of stainless steels utensils. Prices of stainless steel utensils, therefore, depend on the availability of stainless steel in the market for purposes of utensils manufacture, which has now come down. Another factor in the rise of stainless steel utensil prices is the import duty on stainless steel of certain gauges required for non-priority purposes, which has been fixed at the rate of 200 per cent (plus auxiliary duties), with a view to curbing demand and to conserve foreign exchange. As and when indigenous production of stainless steel of the required varieties increases, prices of end-products based on stainless steel may stabilise at more reasonable levels.

Strike by Employees of Coal Mines

1241. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state.

(a) whether employees of the coal-mines have threatened to go on strike throughout the country from the 18th November, 1974 to press for the acceptance of their demands; and

(b) if so, the main demands of the employees and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b) A number of of Trade Unions in Coal Industry have threatend to go on an indefinite strike from the 9th December, 1974 preceded by a token 48-hour strike on 25th and 26th November, 1974 to press for the following demands:

(i) immediate implementation of the agreed decisions of the Joint Bipartite Wage Negotiating Committee for the coal mining industry and introduction of the wage structure with retrospective effect; and

(ii) exemption of the workers employed in the coal mining industry