

Schools for Government Employees

88. { Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:

Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state the progress made in the proposal of opening residential schools for the children of defence personnel and Government officials who are liable to frequent transfers?

The Minister of Education (Dr. K. L. Shrimali): It has been decided that in the first instance the existing regimental schools should be taken over and strengthened. Out of sixty places where regimental schools are located, thirty will be covered in the first year. The working of these schools is being studied and their immediate and long-term needs which are to be met are being assessed.

Shortage of Coal Supply

89. Shri Marandi: Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact of a serious shortage of coal supply in the country during the period from 1st October, 1962 to 31st January, 1963; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in the matter?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). The production and despatches of coal during the periods from 1st October, 1962 to 31st January, 1963, as compared to the corresponding period of last year, are given below:—

(In Million Tonnes)

	Production		Despatches	
	1961	1962	1961	1962
October	4.29	4.14	5.03	4.75
November	4.61	4.27	5.80	4.37
December	4.88	4.25	5.77	4.96
	1962		1963	
January	3.96	3.15	5.89	5.00

*Provisional

From the above statement, it will be observed that both the production and despatches of coal during October, 1962 to January, 1963 have appreciably increased as compared to the corresponding period in 1961-1962.

According to information available important industrial consumers are now well stocked with coal, and there is no shortage so far as they are concerned. If, however, any specific cases of shortage affecting important consumers are brought to our notice, immediate *ad hoc* steps are taken to rush supplies, and sometimes such supplies are diverted from consumers having adequate stocks.

Kalakote Coal Mines

91. Shri Raghunath Singh: Will the Minister of Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken to make Kalakote coal mines of Jammu and Kashmir State to make coal cheaper; and

(b) the arrangement made so that coal be supplied economically and easily to Punjab and Jammu province of Jammu and Kashmir State?

The Minister of Mines and Fuel (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) and (b). The pithead price of Kalakote coal compare favourably with the prices in collieries with almost similar geological and mining conditions. The cost of Kalakote coal at the consuming end in Jammu Province and Punjab, however, increases because this coal has to be transported over roads which pass through difficult hills and narrow bridges. So long as these roads are not widened and bridges strengthened so as to permit the movement of high capacity trucks, it is hardly possible to effect any appreciable reduction in the overall cost to the consumers. However, the State Governments of Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir are jointly considering how the cost could be reduced to some extent.