

**NATIONAL COAL DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**

4430. SHRI C.C. DESAI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the off-take of coal of the National Coal Development Corporation, Dhanbad, remained static at 9.156 lakh tonnes in January, 1968 as against 9.165 lakh tonnes in December, 1967, owing to the embargo imposed on its movement by the Railways;

(b) whether it is a fact the pit-head stocks went up from 10.106 lakh tonnes at the end of December, 1967 to 10,663 lakh tonnes at the end of January, 1968;

(c) whether the Corporation has shown a financial loss during 1967-68 despite higher production of coal this year;

(d) whether the Budget prepared for 1968-69 stipulates substantial losses together with considerable increases in capital cost of different projects currently undertaken by the National Coal Development Corporation; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) and (b). It is not a fact that off-take of coal of National Coal Development Corporation remained static owing to the embargo imposed on its movement by the Railways. However, both production and despatches were affected on account of shortfall in wagon supply in certain areas. Consequently, despatches in January, 1968 were 8.91 lakh tonnes as against 8.94 lakh tonnes in December, 1967. As a result the pit-head stocks which stood at 10,10,665 tonnes on 31-12-67 went upto 10,67,132 tonnes on 31-1-68.

(c) It is not possible at this stage to indicate whether the Corporation will suffer financial loss or earn profit during this year.

(d) and (e). Budget proposals for 1968-69 do not indicate substantial losses. However, cases have come to notice where the capital cost on certain projects had exceeded

the original project estimates. This excess is due mainly to (i) increase in wages and cost of materials, (ii) changes in design and specification (iii) modification of original project reports/estimates, and (ic) increase the cost of imported equipment and spares as a result of devaluation.

**NON-AVAILABILITY OF COAL**

4431. SHRI C. C. DESAI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND METALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many consumers of fuel have resorted to fuel oil despite its being costlier because of non-availability of good quality coal;

(b) whether this would be detrimental to national interest because of India's inability to meet the entire demand of fuel oil inoigenously resulting in substantial import from abroad;

(c) whether Government propose to use more of coal till India has a favourable balance of trade and restrict the use of fuel oil to certain specialised applications;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Bihar State has increased the royalty rates on coal by another 50 paise per tonne; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL, MINES AND METALS (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such specific proposal is under consideration. The use of different types of coal is governed chiefly by the comparative economics of utilisation of one *vis-a-vis* the other.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

**RAILWAY STATION AT BHEJIPUT**

4432. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposals have been received for opening a railway station at Bhejiput on the South-Eastern Railway in Orissa on the border of Ganjam and Puri District; and