

Loss to Railways due to increase in Price of Coal

4678. SHRI YASHPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Coal Industry has decided to raise the price of coal despite resistance of his Ministry in this regard;

(b) if so, whether the decision of coal industry will lead to loss to the Railways;

(c) to what extent the Railways would suffer a loss due to increase in the price of coal; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation arising out of the decision taken by the coal Industry?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NADNA): (a) In their tenders for supply of coal to the Railways for the year 1971, majority of the collieries have asked for price increases of about Rs. 3/- per tonne.

(b) and (c). Price increases as asked, if allowed, would result in an additional expenditure of about Rs. 4.8 crores per annum to the Railways.

(d) Negotiations are being held with the tenderers.

Effect of Industrial Policy on Investment

4679. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the remarks made by the Chairman of the Indian Investment Centre that Government's industrial policy has been impeding the industrial growth; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove the uncertainty and help to create the proper atmosphere for investment?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA): (a) and (b). While addressing the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Investment Centre on 19th November, 1970, the Chairman, Indian Investment Centre made some observations regarding certain aspects of industrial policy and need for disposal of applications for industrial licences and foreign collaborations. Government are of the view that the existing industrial policy is designed to secure accelerated and broad-based industrial growth consistent with social justice. As regards procedural delays, Government are aware of the need for expeditious disposal of applications for industrial licences and foreign collaboration and a number of steps have been taken to accelerate the rate of disposal and clear the long-pending cases.

Allocation of Steel to Kerala

46 0. SHRI E. K. NAYANAR: Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Kerala State Public Works Department is badly affected, as works are being stopped due to scarcity of steel and important Projects are at a stand still;

(b) whether it is a fact that on account of the delay in processing indents on the Joint Plant Committee, Kerala State Public Works Department could not receive any priority allocation of steel for the quarter October-November, 1970; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to meet the steel requirement of Kerala Public Works Department?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) Representations were received from Kerala State for supply of steel to Kerala Public Works Department.

(b) and (c). Kerala Government did not approach the Steel Priority Committee in time to obtain their requirements during October-