

permits have been issued during the last 3 years. There is also no VIP quotas for supply of coal.

For the grades for which the prices are notified by the Government of India, the sale by the coal companies is as per this notified price only. In other grades of coal the sales are in accordance with the prices as fixed by the coal companies themselves. Some sale of coal is also made under the Liberalised Sales Scheme as well for obtaining test bid prices by the coal companies by inviting open tenders.

Distribution of coal is done in accordance with the provisions of the Colliery Control Order for the grades which continue to be governed by it. The distribution of A,B,C, grades of non-coking coal and coking coal is being made in accordance with linkages established by the coal companies and also sponsorships given to the consumers by various Central and State sponsoring authorities.

The consumer-wise details of coal supplies during the last three years are not kept centrally at Coal India Limited and the collection of this data from a large number of collieries and the areas will take considerable time. It is felt that the time and effort required in collection and compilation of these details may not be commensurate with the purpose sought to be achieved.

Coal Mines in Meghalaya

509. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether coal mines are being mined in Meghalaya from which about 60 lakh tonnes of coal is being exported to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the total revenue earnings therefrom;

(c) whether safety measures are being followed in these mines; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d). In Meghalaya most of the coal mining is being done traditionally by tribals without observance of any provisions of mining laws. Coal India Ltd. is developing one mining in Simsong and all stipulations of mining laws and safety measures are being strictly observed. The coal produced in Meghalaya is to some extent consumed by the local people and the balance is either exported to Bangladesh or sold to up country consumers. Since the export of coal from Meghalaya is now decanalised, no details regarding the quantity of coal exported to Bangladesh of the revenue earnings therefrom, are available in the Ministry of Coal.

Production of Indigenous Defence Equipments

510. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air Chief Marshall has emphasized recently, on the need to draw the attention of the Government and public towards the production of indigenous defence equipments, so that dependence on imported defence equipments could be reduced; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A national mission has already been launched for enhancing self-reliance in Defence systems with a goal of increasing acquisition of weapons and defence systems of indigenous origin to the level of 70% of total annual defence acquisition by the year 2005.

Incidents of Firing on Borders

511. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT :
SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan has intensified military pressure on the Indian borders and increased incidents of firing on the Indian territory continuously;

(b) if so, the number of times Pakistani army resorted to firing on border areas and the loss of life and property caused therein during the last three years;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to give a befitting reply to the provocative actions of Pakistan;

(d) the number of soldiers killed in Jammu and Kashmir region while discharging their duties during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken by Government for the welfare of the families of the deceased soldiers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Unprovoked firing across the Line of Control and International Border in J & K by Pakistani troops has been a recurring phenomenon over the years. However, during the current year there has been a marginal increase in firings by Pakistani troops.

(b) During the last three and half years i.e. from 1993 upto June 96, Pakistani troops resorted to unprovoked firing across International Border/LOC in J&K on 8667 occasions in which our troops and civilians suffered some casualties.

(c) A befitting reply is given by Indian troops in all incidents of firing. However, our response is always specific, for effect and in a graduated manner to ensure that incidents remain localised and there is no escalation.

(d) 48 Army soldiers were killed while discharging their duties on LOC/International Border in J&K.

STATEMENT

Benefits provided to the next of kin/victims of Army/BSF personnel killed/injured in the incidents of firing on Indo-Pak border as also counter insurgency operations are as under :-

Army

The victims/next of kin of those Army personnel injured/killed due to firing at the border or in counter insurgency operations are entitled to liberalised pensionary award as also various other benefits including claims under Army Group Insurance Scheme, compassionate employment etc. Some State Governments also extend some benefits to the next of kin of those killed in operations.

BSF

In the case of BSF personnel killed on border due to firing from Pakistan, apart from ex-gratia payment of Rs. 2,00,000/- from the Central Government, certain other benefits are also extended to the next of kin of those killed in action.

[English]

✓ Rain Water Management

512. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rain water in the country is getting wasted and the Government have not any technology to store it;

(b) if so, whether there is imperative need for better rain water management and development of new technology; and

(c) if so, the plans of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Full utilisation of rain water is not possible due to evaporation and vegetative (transpiration) losses and due to allowing certain amount of water to flow in the river for maintaining the river regime. However, through large and small dams and reservoirs, storage can be

created on the river systems to store a limited quantity of rain water. Out of a total available utilisable water of 1142 billion cubic metres in the country, the present (1994) utilisation of water (surface and ground) is about 606 billion cubic metres i.e. 53% leaving 536 billion cubic metres of utilisable water as unutilised.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the Five Year Plans emphasis was placed on creation of storages across rivers in order to utilise the rain water for irrigation and other purposes, as a result of which the total live storage capacity of the country is at present about 193.2 billion cubic metres. Dams to create additional live storage capacity of 77 billion cubic metres are under various stages of construction. In addition, about 130 billion cubic metres storage is likely to be added through major and medium schemes under consideration.

The National Water Development Agency is carrying out studies on the National Perspective Plan for water resources development which, inter-alia, envisages transferring water from surplus to water-short basins by inter-linking of rivers and constructing reservoirs at potential sites. It is estimated that another 220 billion cubic metres of water will be available under National Perspective Plan for use through inter-basin transfers.

[Translation]

✓ Counter Magnet City Scheme

513. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS & EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount earmarked by the Government during Eighth Plan period under Counter Magnet City Scheme and the manner in which it will be implemented; and

(b) the amount allocated to various selected cities separately in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) In the context of the National Capital Region, an amount of Rs. 100 crores has been allocated for the development of Counter Magnet towns around Delhi during the VIII Plan period. As per policy guidelines for the Scheme, the Project Sanctioning and Monitoring Group of the National Capital Region Planning Board considers release of matching assistance based on proposals from the State Governments of Haryana (Hissar), Punjab (Patiala), Madhya Pradesh (Gwalior), Rajasthan (Kota) and