

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 2, 1996/Sravana 11, 1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues Shri Karan Singh Yadav.

Shri Karan Singh Yadav was a Member of Fifth Lok Sabha representing Badaun Parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh during 1971-77.

Earlier, he had been a Member of Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha during 1952-57.

An agriculturist and advocate by profession, Shri Yadav was well-known political and social worker. He served as a trustee of Shiv Narain Dass Nehru Memorial Degree College, Badaun, member of Zila Parishad, Badaun and manager of B.R.S. Kutir College, Barbala.

Shri Karan Singh Yadav passed away on 27th July, 1996 at Badaun at the age of 71 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of our former colleague and I am sure that the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed soul.

11.02 hrs.

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while.)

11.03 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Prices of Coal

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*321. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decontrolled the prices of various grades of coal during the last few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extra amount likely to be received by coal producing companies as a result of the said price rise;

(c) whether the Government also propose to decontrol the production of coal to open more competition in this sector; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to fully decontrol the coal industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Pricing of coking coal and A, B & C grades of non-coking coal has been deregulated by the Central Government with effect from 22.3.1996. Pursuant to this, Coal India Limited (CIL) have fixed higher prices of coking coal and A, B & C grades of non-coking coal with effect from 31.3.1996. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) have fixed higher prices for B and C grades of non-coking coal with effect from 19.4.1996.

The additional amounts likely to be earned per year by CIL and SCCL are expected to be around Rs. 984.92 crores and Rs.70.42 crores respectively.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal to decontrol coal production. However, the provisions of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 were amended on 9.6.93 to allow coal mining for captive consumption for generation of power, washing of coal obtained from a mine and manufacture of cement. Captive coal mines for production of iron & steel had been allowed before the said amendment.

Under these provisions, 20 companies/State Electricity Boards have been offered captive coal blocks for power generation and iron and steel production so far.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the reply of the hon. Minister, the prices of Coking Coal and A, B, C and D grade non-coking coal were decontrolled with effect from March 22, 1996 and as a result Government have not furnished the figures. Coal India and Singareni Coal Ltd. have claimed to have earned a profit of Rs. 984.92 crores and Rs. 70.42 crores respectively during the current year. I am not satisfied with the contention that profit was earned after decontrol. Sir, it is meaningless to earn profit by increasing the administered prices in place of earning profit through better management and efficiency and increased productivity. This increase in the administered prices results in imbalance in the prices of Coal i.e. the imported Coal becomes cheaper than the indigenous Coal. The Times of India carried a news item in its 27.3.1996 daily.