

central assistance on matching basis was provided to the coir cooperatives for share capital assistance, managerial subsidy, purchase of equipment and marketing. Assistance given to Kerala under the scheme in 1984-85 was Rs. 100.82 lakhs and during the year 1985-86 an amount of Rs. 25.75 lakhs has been released.

**Withholding of L.P.G. Supply by Distributors at the Time of Hike in Price of L.P.G.**

5677. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the dates on which price of LPG was raised and reduced respectively and by how much and whether there was any reduction in weight of LPG in cylinder ;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain dealers charged higher revised rates from those who had booked for the supply earlier than the date of price hike ; if so, the reasons therefor, when the supply was delayed by the dealers only ;

(c) whether any check was made in this respect during the transition period of price hike and revision to check malpractices ;

(d) if so, the results thereof and how many cases came to his notice and the action taken against the defaulters ;

(e) if not the reasons why no action was taken to check malpractice and to regulate the supplies ; and

(f) whether Government propose to take action now against the defaulters with the help of the records of the dealers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH) : (a) The price of LPG was increased by Rs. 700/- per M.T. with effect from the mid night of 31st January/1st February, 1986. The price of LPG was reduced by Rs. 280/- per M.T. with effect from the mid night of 5th February/6th February, 1986. There was no change in the weight of LPG being marketed.

(b) to (f) As per the present pricing mechanism/system of petroleum products, the dealers are to charge the rate applicable on the date of supply irrespective of the date of booking. Any loss or gain due to revision in rates, on the stock held is on dealers' account.

**Surplus Labourers in B.C.C.L. and E.C.L.**

5678. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chairman, Coal India Limited has talked of one lakh surplus labour in Bharat Coking Coal Limited and Eastern Coalfields Limited ;

(b) the reasons of workforce becoming surplus after 14 years of nationalisation of coal industry ; and

(c) whether officers and supervisory staff have also become surplus in that proportion ; if so, the details thereof ; if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHI) : (a) On the occasion of completion of a decade after the formation of Coal India Ltd., Chairman CIL, addressed the employees of Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiary coal companies in the form of an appeal and also addressed a Press conference on 13.11.1985 wherein he mentioned only about CIL's employing largest man-power which was organisation's most valuable asset and emphasized that potential of this large manpower need to be urgently converted into useful productive force after proper training etc. He did not mention about surplus manpower. However Baveja Committee estimated a surplus manpower of about 50,000 in BCCL in 1978. The Chari Committee recently estimated as much surplus manpower in ECL.

(b) and (c) Since Chairman, CIL has not said anything about surplus man-power, the question does not arise.